

A VERY MERRY MADISON PARADE **PAGE A8**

THE MADISON COURIER

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2024 *Serving the Courier area since 1837* NEWSSTAND • \$1.25

OurSIRDA approves 3 Jefferson County projects

Madison amphitheater, housing projects, JPG RV park make cut

BY BOB DEMAREE
Three Jefferson County projects totaling \$8.5 million were approved Friday to receive funding from Our Southern Indiana Regional Development Authority from the \$45 million Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) funds allocated by the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC).

The city of Madison was awarded \$3.5 million to create a permanent amphitheater at Bicentennial Park and \$2 million to develop housing on the former Madison Coal Company property now owned by the city at the east corner of Jefferson Street and Vaughn Drive. Jefferson County was awarded \$3 million to develop a Krueger Lake Campground at the former Jefferson Proving Ground.

“The board supported projects that will help inspire more people to move to this region and enjoy our outstanding quality of life,” said Kevin Kellems, Jefferson County’s representative on the OurSIRDA board of directors. “In Jefferson County, for example, so many visitors who

come to celebrate the great outdoors, watch live music and walk Madison’s Main Street, become repeat visitors here and also discover our neighboring counties.”

Madison Mayor Bob Courtney said, “Our Destination Madison plan took a big leap forward with the award of \$5.5 million for our continued investment in housing and quality of life initiatives. We will leverage these dollars to attract even more private capital in elevating Madison’s quality of life, grow its population, and enhance our economy. The public-private partnerships we have formed are facilitating tremendous investment in our county and region. I’m very excited for 2025 and beyond. I’m grateful for all of the

work the RDA board has done evaluating opportunities, especially our county representative Kevin Kellems.”

Tony Steinhardt, the city’s director of economic development, said the city had requested \$5 million for the amphitheater, noting the cities of Franklin, Noblesville, Fishers and Shelbyville built amphitheaters that were in the range of \$5 million to \$10 million.

“With every READI project, we leverage other public and private dollars to do the project,” said Steinhardt, noting the READI grant provides strong support to move the amphitheater forward. “If it costs \$7 million, we got half of it.”

A permanent amphitheater would encompass what Steinhardt characterized as the four Ps — production and technology, performer amenities and programming. He said a community committee will be formed to address each of those in the amphitheater.

Steinhardt said the housing project at the former coal property would provide for apartments to be named after William Hendricks, Indiana’s third Governor from 1822-1825, who also served as member of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1816-1822 and as a U.S. Senator from 1825-1837.

SEE **PROJECTS/PAGE A6**

MCS school board hears support for early childcare center

BY BOB DEMAREE
With a Madison Consolidated Schools early childcare center currently being explored by the corporation’s board of trustees, community representatives expressed their support for the project at a work session Thursday.

MCS Superintendent Dr. Teresa Brown said data has characterized Jefferson County as a “desert” for high quality early childcare, and that need is “why we’re having this conversation with you today.”

The facility would provide childcare for children from birth to 4 years old, including childcare for ages birth up to 3 years old, and preschool for ages 3 and 4. MCS currently has 189 preschool students in rooms at its four elementary schools of which most would be moved to the proposed childcare center. If the project moves forward, the childcare center would be located on the grounds of the former E.O. Muncie Elementary School.

SEE **SUPPORT/PAGE A6**

Braun retains Jenner as Secretary of Education

BY THE COURIER STAFF
Dr. Katie Jenner, appointed as Indiana’s first Secretary of Education four years ago by Gov. Eric Holcomb, will continue in that position when Governor-elect Mike Braun takes office Jan. 13.

Jenner worked for Madison Consolidated Schools from 2009 to 2018 as a school administrator and assistant superintendent, and is also the wife of Madison City Attorney Joe Jenner. Under Jenner’s leadership since 2021, Indiana has made its largest-ever investment in literacy, implementing a comprehensive teacher supply/demand marketplace, and increasing the statewide graduation rate. Her administration deployed Indiana’s Graduates Prepared to Succeed initiative, which redefined how the state measures school performance and student achievement.

“Dr. Jenner’s proven track record of elevating Indiana’s education system makes her the ideal choice to continue leading our state’s academic initiatives,” said Braun. “Her focus on literacy, STEM education, and workforce readiness aligns perfectly with our vision for Indiana’s future.”



Dr. Katie Jenner

SEE **JENNER/PAGE A6**

Placing An Order



Bob Demaree

Three-year-old Liam Copeland, of Madison, shared his list of Christmas wants and needs with Santa Claus during Saturday’s A Very Merry Madison Celebration at the Broadway Fountain. The event include the city’s annual Christmas parade followed by all kids of activities at the fountain park. See additional Very Merry Madison Celebration photos on Page A8.



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High

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Low

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Annis Brandenburg

Barbara Brooks

Janet Brown

Kenneth Long

William Neubert

Gregory Higdon

Emma Wright



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Women drop groping suit against ex-AG Hill

INDIANAPOLIS — Four women who accused Curtis Hill of drunkenly groping them at a bar when he was Indiana’s attorney general dropped their civil lawsuit against him hours before jury selection was set to begin on Monday.

The women initially sued in federal court in 2019 before filing this last lawsuit in a Marion County court in 2020, claiming that Hill committed battery against them at an Indianapolis bar and then defamed them with repeated claims that their allegations were false.

Their decision Sunday to drop the suit ends nearly seven years of investigations and litigation surrounding Hill’s actions

during a March 2018 party on the final night of that year’s legislative session, The Indianapolis Star reported.

In a statement from their attorneys, the women said they agreed to dismiss the suit after reaching “the frustrating conclusion that proceeding with the trial cannot provide the relief they sought; namely, Mr. Hill accepting responsibility for his actions and admitting his fault in intentionally touching each of them in a sexual manner without consent.”

The four women who sued Hill are Mara Candelaria Reardon, Gabrielle McLemore Brock, Samantha Lozano and Niki DaSilva.

At the time of the March 2018 party, Candelaria Reardon was a Democratic state representative from Munster in northwest Indiana, and the three other women were legislative staffers.

All decided to come forward publicly in response to his denials.

Hill said Monday in a statement that the case’s dismissal is a vindication of his longstanding denial of the women’s claims.

“There was no financial settlement. There were no conditions for dismissal,” Hill said.

“The case against me was dismissed with prejudice by each of the plaintiffs, thus ending this odyssey of unfounded allegations that have dogged

me for nearly seven years and have served as the fuel for political and personal attacks against me.”

Despite Hill’s denials, the Indiana Supreme Court ordered a 30-day suspension of his law license in 2020 after finding “by clear and convincing evidence that (Hill) committed the criminal act of battery” against three female legislative staffers and a state lawmaker during the party.

The justices ruled after nine people who attended the party testified at his professional misconduct hearing.

The allegations were a key campaign issue when Hill narrowly lost the 2020 Republican attorney general nomination for

his reelection to Todd Rokita, who took office in January 2021.

Hill attempted a political comeback in 2022, but he lost a vote among Republican precinct committee members to replace U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski on the election ballot following her death in a highway crash. Business executive Rudy Yakym won the GOP nomination and election for northern Indiana’s 2nd District seat.

Hill also entered this year’s Indiana governor’s race, joining a six-way Republican primary to replace term-limited GOP Gov. Eric Holcomb.

But first-term U.S. Sen. Mike Braun won the May primary and the November general election.

NEWS OF RECORD

JEFFERSON COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER

LODGINGS
December 5, 2024

- Lindsay Lee Cole, 41, Madison, for Battery Moderate Injury, a Level 6 felony; and Criminal Trespass, a Class A misdemeanor. No bond.
- Haden Tucker Hall, 19, Madison, to serve 43 days, concurrent, on a court-ordered sentencing. No bond.

December 6, 2024

- Angela Marie Clark, 49, Milton, Kentucky, on a multi-count arrest warrant. No bond.
- Amy Jo Miller, 43, Rushville, Indiana, for Possession of Methamphetamine and Possession of a Syringe, both Level 6 felonies;

Possession of Marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor; and Possession of Paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. No bond.

- Cody Michael Reedy, 30, Hanover, on a Jefferson County warrant for failure to appear. Bond \$1,000 cash.
- Robert Van Thornhill, 39, Hanover, on a court-ordered sentencing for probation violation. No bond.

December 7, 2024

- Lucas Scott Skirvin, 29, Madison, for Operating a Vehicle with a BAC of .15 , a Level 6 felony. No bond.

December 8, 2024

- Christopher Monroe Brierly, 30, Hanover, for Possession of Methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony; and Possession of Paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond \$1,000 cash.

- Venessa E. Hale, 45, no address, for Operating a Vehicles While Intoxicated, a Level 6 felony; Operating a Vehicle While Intoxicated and Resisting Law Enforcement, both Class A misdemeanors. No bond.
- Adnis P. Perez-Ramirez, 20, Carrollton, Kentucky, for Speed Contest, a Class A, misdemeanor; and Reckless Driving, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond \$500 cash.
- Ashley D. Scudder, 40, Madison, for Possession of Methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony; and Possession of Paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond \$1,000 cash.
- Omar Zacarias-Meija, 18, no address, for Speed Contest, a Class A, misdemeanor; and Reckless Driving, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond \$500 cash.

JEFFERSON COUNTY CIRCUIT & SUPERIOR COURT

SENTENCINGS
December 4, 2024

- Ross Patrick Polley, 33, Madison, to an amended charge of Operating While Intoxicated, a Class A misdemeanor. Sentenced to 365 days jail with credit for 2 days jail served, three days to serve and 360 days suspended to supervised probation plus \$589 in fees and court costs and loss of driver’s license for 90 days.
- Ashton David Fowler, 19, Madison, to an amended charge of Operating While Intoxicated, a Class A misdemeanor. Sentenced to 365 days jail with credit for 2 days jail served and 363 days suspended to

supervised probation plus \$289.50 in fees and court costs and loss of driver’s license for 180 days with specialized driving privileges.

- James Wesley Howard Terry, 36, Madison, to an amended charge of Intimidation, a Level 5 felony. Sentenced to 730 days at Indiana Department of Correction, fully executed with credit for 125 days jail served plus \$389 with No Contact Order to remain in effect.
- Dustin E. Coy, 42, Hanover, for Burglary, a Level 5 felony. Sentenced to 1,095 days at Indiana Department of Correction, fully executed with credit for 120 days jail served plus \$389 in fees and court costs and restitution in an amount to be determined.
- Clayton Allen Hall, 41, Madison, to amended

charges of Criminal Recklessness, a Level 6 felony; and Possession of Marijuana, a Class A misdemeanor. Sentenced to 910 days at Indiana Department of Correction on the felony with 730 days executed, credit for 174 days served and 180 days suspended to probation; consecutive to 365 days jail on the misdemeanor, all suspended to 545 days supervised probation plus \$989 in fees and court costs and restitution in an amount to be determined.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

JEFFERSON COUNTY
December 5, 2024

- Rebecca R. Pyles to Scott Pyles and Rebecca R. Pyles, 2323 Allen Street, Madison.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EVENTS

- Madison Community Band Christmas Concert
- Clifty Falls State Park Inn Overlook Room
- 1650 Clifty Hollow Road, Madison

Tuesday, Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m.

- Enjoy holiday favorites by the Madison Community Band. Free admission.
- Tuba Carols
- Broadway Fountain

Saturday, Dec. 14, 4:30 p.m.

- Low brass musicians

from Jefferson County and surrounding counties perform Christmas songs during the Tuba Carols event at the Broadway Fountain.

- Blue Christmas Service, North Madison United Methodist Church, 2235 Allen Street, Madison

Sunday, Dec. 15, 6 p.m.

- A service of comfort and hope to help those for whom Christmas is not joyous due to loss, separation or memories.
- MCHS Christmas Concert

- Madison Consolidated High School
- 743 Clifty Drive, Madison

Thursday, Dec. 19, 7 p.m.

- Madison Consolidated High School choir and band Christmas concert at Opal Sherman Auditorium.

FUNDRAISER

- Christmas Cookie Walk
- North Madison United Methodist Church, 2235 Allen Street, Madison

Saturday, Dec. 14, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- Open to the public. \$5 suggested donation for each cookie plate.

FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS

- Gleaners Mobile Food Pantry
- National Guard Armory, 1533 Clifty Drive, Madison

Monday, Dec. 9, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- The Gleaners Mobile Food Pantry in Jefferson County will return to the second Mondays of each month in December

(Dec. 9). The drive-through food pantry, which serves about 250 families monthly, will be open from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. or when supplies run out.

SALVATION ARMY FOOD BANK
331 East Main St.

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays noon-1 p.m.

- A food giveaway at the red door on east side of building. Bring your own bags.
- For more information, call 812-265-2157.

HOUSE OF HOPE FOOD PANTRY
100 East 2nd St., Madison

Tuesdays 5-7 p.m.; Fridays 9-11 a.m.

- A food giveaway and distribution at the Jefferson County House of Hope Food Pantry in downtown Madison. Please arrive at the pantry 15 minutes prior to closing to be served.

CLOTHING DISTRIBUTIONS

- Jesus Clothes Closet
- Trinity United Methodist Church
- 412 W. Main St., Madison

Mondays 9-11 a.m.

- Jesus Clothes Closet distributes free clothing to those in need.

For more information, call 812-866-4843.

SENIOR EVENTS

Hanover Senior Citizens Center

- **Exercising:** The Hanover Senior Citizens Program is offering free exercising at the Hanover Park Community Center on Mondays and Thursdays at 10 a.m.
- **Lunch:** The Hanover Senior Citizens Program is serving lunch at noon on Fridays at the Hanover Park Community Center.
- Cost is \$5 and RSVP is


required by calling 812-498-2894.

Madison Senior Citizens Center

- **Senior Meals:** Lifetime Resources will be providing congregate meals at the Madison Senior Center, 208 West Main St. on Tuesday and Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Meals are free for anyone over age 60 with a suggested donation of \$6.
- Meals are \$6 for anyone under age 60.
- **Game Days:** The Madison Senior Citizens Center hosts weekly card days and Bingo at the Senior Citizens Center in downtown Madison.
- The schedule includes Euchre on Mondays and Thursdays from noon until 10 games are completed and Bingo on Tuesdays from 10-11:30 a.m.
- The games are free and open to senior citizens.

WEATHER

Sunrise: 7:47 a.m.
Sunset: 5:21 p.m.
Temperature: High 55, Low 45, Mean 50.0, Excess 10.9
Precipitation since last published: .16
Precipitation, December 2024: .16
Precipitation, 2024: 40.30
Barometer: 29.69, Rising
River Level at Clifty Creek: 422.09, Steady
Forecast: Wednesday: Mostly cloudy High 37/Low 19;
Thursday: Sunny High 31/Low 21; Friday: Cloudy High 45/Low 36.



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Dems pick Beshear to lead efforts to win midterm governorships

BY BRUCE SCHREINER
ASSOCIATED PRESS
FRANKFORT, Ky. —

Looking to strengthen his foothold in national politics, Kentucky Gov. Andy

Beshear is taking on a lead role for Democratic efforts to win governorships in the 2026 midterm election — when a majority of states will be electing governors, including a crucial set of presidential swing states.

Democratic governors on Saturday picked Beshear as chair-elect of the Democratic Governors Association for 2026.

He will serve as vice chair

in 2025, when Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly will continue serving as the group’s chair.

Voters in Virginia and New Jersey will elect governors next year.

His selection sets up Beshear to play a lead role in candidate recruitment, messaging and fundraising for 2026, when the DGA says governorships are up for grabs in 36 states.

BIRTHDAYS

Editor’s Note: Got a birthday or anniversary coming up? Send name, date and number of years (optional) to zelda@madisoncourier.com or call 812-265-3641. Please leave your name and phone number in case we have followup questions.

DECEMBER 10

Kathy Jacobs Brierly

DECEMBER 11

Keith Howard
Kevin Watkins

DECEMBER 12

Laverne Gross
Barb Scroggs

DECEMBER 13

DECEMBER 14

Charles Gaddie

DECEMBER 15

Margaret Scott

DECEMBER 17

Larry Duke
John Haskell

DECEMBER 18

Julie King Byrd-Jenkins

DECEMBER 19

Jak McCormick

DECEMBER 20

Matt Brawner

DECEMBER 22

Jeff Ayler

DECEMBER 10

Bill Poindexter

LOTTERY

INDIANA
Hoosier Lotto: 7-16-19-22-30-31 (12/7). Next Estimated Jackpot: \$31 million. Next Drawing (12/11).
Cash Five: 13-23-25-33-34 (12/8)
Cash 4 Life: 4-7-18-34-58 CB: 2 (12/8)

KENTUCKY
Cash Ball: 12-20-22-24 CB 25 (12/8)
Lucky For Life: 1-2-39-40-42 LB: 4 (12/8)

POWERBALL
1-31-43-55-57 PB: 22, PP 2 (12/7).

One winning ticket sold in New York matching all five numbers and the Powerball for a \$256 million jackpot. Next Estimated Jackpot: \$20 million. Next Drawing (12/9)
POWERBALL DOUBLE PLAY: 8-10-39-57-61 PB: 12 (12/7). Next Estimated Jackpot: Up to \$10 million. Next Drawing (12/9)

MEGAMILLIONS
MEGAMILLIONS: 16-21-33-39-45 MB: 24, MP 2 (12/6). Next Jackpot: \$619 million. Next Drawing (12/10)

OBITUARIES

Annis L. Brown Brandenburg

Annis L. Brown Brandenburg, age 75, of Madison, IN, entered this life on Feb. 1, 1949, in Indianapolis, IN. She was the loving daughter of the late, James Franklin and Lola Mae Cook Brown. She was raised in Indianapolis, and was a 1966 graduate of George Washington High School. She was a loving mother of two sons and two daughters. She was a Dental Technician for 22 years, twelve of them with Dr. Klinedinst in Madison, IN. She had been a member Calvary Baptist Church, and then held membership at North United Methodist Church, and was a current member of Hope Valley Church in Madison. She enjoyed reading, embroidering, going to church, and her grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. In death Annis chose to be an organ donor to provide life to others. Annis died on Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2024, at 11:20 p.m., Babe at the Norton Audubon Hospital in Louisville, KY.

Annis will be missed by her loving sons, Timothy Joe Brandenburg Indianapolis, IN, Terrell Lee Brandenburg of Spencer, IN; her loving daughters, Theresa Dawn Brandenburg of North Dakota, Sarah Ann Brandenburg Zahl and her husband, David of Indianapolis, IN; her grandchildren, Jennifer, Danielle, Gabrielle, Chase, Dakota, Nathaniel, and Everett; her great-grandchildren, Nolan, Delaney, Nora, Ellie, Everly, Corbin,



Demi, Logan and Levi; her brothers, Eugene Brown of Nashville, IN, Thomas Brown of Westerfield, OH; several nieces, nephews, and other relatives. She was preceded in death by her father, James Franklin Brown, her mother, Lola Mae Cook Brown, her special companion, David Brindel and her brother, James Brown.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., by Pastor Brynen Chitwood at the Calvary Baptist Church in Madison, IN. Interment followed in the Springdale Cemetery, 600 W. Fifth St. in downtown Madison, IN.

Friends could visit Saturday from noon — 2:30 p.m., at the Calvary Baptist Church, 2632 Michigan Road in Madison, IN.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Hope Valley Church or the American Heart Association. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison, and Hanover, or at the church. Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials, can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

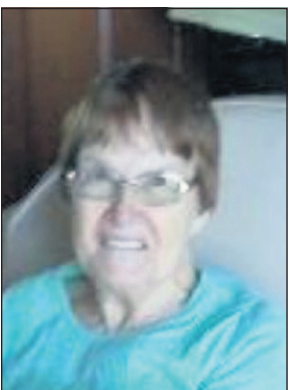
Barbara Ann (Mason) Brooks

Barbara Ann (Mason) Brooks, 88, of North Vernon, passed away at 6:03 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2024, at St. Vincent Jennings Hospital in North Vernon.

Born Nov. 29, 1936, in Middletown, OH, she was the daughter of the late William J. and Anna M. (Wilhoit) Mason. She married Richard “Dick” Edwin Brooks on Oct. 25, 1958, at Rush Branch Methodist Church; he preceded her in death on Sept. 5, 2014.

Barbara graduated from Vernon High School in 1954. She went on to work as the cafeteria manager for Jennings County High School for 23 years. She had also owned Brooks Grocery in San Jacinto for three and a half years and worked for Jay-C for eight years and for Just Rite Supermarket. She was a current member of Jennings Church of Christ, and a former member of Butlerville Mennonite Church, and Rush Branch Methodist Church. She enjoyed reading and watching her great grandchildren play sports. She loved her family, especially her grandchildren, and great grandchildren, and her cat, Wiskers.

She is survived by her son, David Allen (Nancy) Brooks of Bedford; daughter, Diana Lynn Love of North Vernon; grandchildren, Chelsea Brooks and Trisha (Robbie) Kinser, both of Bedford, Tyra (Dustin) Griffin of Columbus, and Mason



(Kelsei) Love of North Vernon; great grandchildren, Ethan Jarvis, Remi Love, Darian Miller, Leeanna Hoover, Weston Love, Waylon Toliver, Kaley Ernstes, Ela Kinser, Lain Ernstes, Lainey Kinser, Brooklyn Wilkerson, Colton Kinser, Jake Love, Clara Bertola, M.J. Cooley, Brayden Griffin, Chesney Griffin, Carter Griffin, and Alana Griffin; and great-great grandchildren, Hunter, Maddox, Berkley, Payton, and Hudson.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; her brother, William Edward Mason; and her son in-law, James Love.

A funeral service for Barbara was held at 1 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 9, 2024, at Dove-Sharp & Rudicel Funeral Home and Cremation Services in North Vernon. Visitation was held on Monday from 10 a.m. until the start of the service. Burial followed at Graham Baptist Cemetery.

Memorial donations can be made in honor of Barbara through the funeral home to the Autism Science Foundation.

William Robert ‘Bill’ Neubert Jr.

William Robert “Bill” Neubert Jr., age 85, of Vevay, IN, was born William Moore on July 29, 1939. After the death of his mother, he was sadly given up for adoption. However, his siblings Bob, Jim, and Carole remained with their father. Bill was adopted by a loving older couple, William and Mabel Neubert. Bill passed away at 6:20 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2024, at the Hospice of Cincinnati in Blue Ash, OH.

Bill will be missed by his step-daughter, Holly Marcum and her husband, David Marcum Jr. of Cincinnati, OH; his step-son, Jeffery Hartzell and his wife, Suzanne Hartzell of Rogersville, AL; his grandchildren, Jacob Kendrick, Jessica Marcum (Jon Senile), Nathan Marcum (Aimee Barton), Christopher Hartzell (Brenda Hartzell) and Matthew Hartzell; his great-grandchildren, Dylan Marcum, Aislynn Marcum and

Jameson Senile; his sister, Carole (Moore) Carter and her husband, Neil Carter of Waynesville, OH, and his nieces, Lillian Chappell (Richard Chappell) and Donna Proffitt (John Proffitt).

He was preceded in death by his adopted parents, William Robert Neubert, Sr. and Mabel Catherine (Radel) Neubert; his birth parents, Marion and Margaret Moore; his brothers, Robert Moore and James Moore; his wife, Frances Mae (Alexander) Neubert and his step-son, Rusty Hartzell.

Visitation will be held from 11 a.m. — 1 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 14, 2024, at the Haskell & Morrison Funeral Home, 208 Ferry Street, Vevay, IN, 47043.

Funeral services will be conducted Saturday, Dec. 14, 2024, at 1 p.m., at the Haskell & Morrison Funeral Home, 208 Ferry Street, Vevay, IN, 47043.

Interment will follow in the Vevay Cemetery, Vevay, IN.

Kenneth ‘Kenny’ Jackson Long

Kenneth “Kenny” Jackson Long, age 88, of Vevay, IN, formerly of Brooksbury, entered this life on Nov. 11, 1936, in Cross Plains in Ripley County, IN. He was the loving son of the late Maurice and Daisy Hamilton Long. Kenneth died on Thursday, Dec. 5, 2024, at 5:06 a.m., at the Swiss Villa Nursing & Rehab Center in Vevay, IN.

Kenneth will be missed by his loving daughters, Terry Reed of Vevay, IN, Sheila Jackson and her husband, Myron of Vevay, IN, Connie Weatherbee Long of Hanover, IN, Daphne Kennicott and her husband, Tom of Union, KY; his sons, Kenny F. Long and his wife, Marca of Hanover, IN, Craig Long and his wife, Angie of Versailles, IN; his grandchildren, Ryan, Heather, Holly, Eric, Matthew, Erin,

David, Stacie, MaKensey, Camden, Andrea, Zach, Craig, and Trey; 22-great grandchildren; his brother, William Long of AL; his brother in law, Joe Bolderly of Madison, IN; several nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

He was preceded in death by his father, Maurice Long, his mother, Daisy Hamilton Long Herald, his beloved wife of 61 years, Margaret Joanna Bolderly Long, died February 22, 2017, his brother, Keith Long.

Kenny chose cremation with no service to be held.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Jefferson County Animal Shelter. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison, and Hanover. Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials, can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

Michael David Bayne Sr.

Michael David Bayne Sr., age 66, of Milton, KY, entered this life on April 18, 1958, in Madison, IN.

He was the loving son of the late, David Rodney and Bonnie Lee Kruse Bayne. Michael died on Friday, Dec. 6, 2024, at 3:50 p.m., at his home in Trimble County, KY.

Michael will be missed by his sons, Michael David Bayne, Jr. of Louisville, KY, Martin Bayne and his wife, Crystal of Sonora, KY; his grandchildren, Christian Bayne and Briar Bayne; his sisters, Myrna Bayne Persell of Milton, KY, Marsha Bayne Taylor of Milton, KY; several nieces, nephews, and other relatives. He was preceded in death by his father, David Rodney Bayne; his mother, Bonnie Lee Kruse Bayne; his brothers, Charles Rodney Bayne, and Mark Owen Bayne; his brothers in law, Fred

Taylor, and Tom Persel; his sister in law, Sherry Lynn Cheeks Bayne.

Funeral services will be conducted Thursday, Dec. 12, 2024, at 1 p.m., by Bro. Aaron Snelling at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison, IN. Interment will follow at a later date in the Moffett Cemetery in Milton, KY.

Friends may visit Thursday, Dec. 12, 2024, from 11 a.m. — 1 p.m., until the time of service at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison, IN.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Michael David Bayne, Sr. Remembrance Fund. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison, and Hanover. Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials, can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

Janet Rea (Patterson) Brown

Janet Rea (Patterson) Brown, age 87, of Lexington, KY, formerly of Florence, IN, entered this life on Feb. 27, 1937 in Florence, IN. She was the daughter of the late Stanley W. and Grace (Wiley) Patterson. Janet passed away at 3:38 a.m., Friday, Dec. 6, 2024, at Baptist Health in Lexington, KY.

Janet will be missed by her daughters, Sharon Brown Parker and her husband, Terry of Lexington, KY, and Linda Brown of Lexington, KY; her son, Michael Brown of Cleves, OH; her grandchildren, Ashley Mitchell and her husband, Kyle of Georgetown, KY, Kristin Staples and her husband, Chad of Garland, TX and Evan Brown of Cleves, OH; her great-granddaughter, Scottie Staples of Garland, TX.

She was preceded in death by her parents,

Stanley W. Patterson, and Grace (Wiley) Patterson, and her husband, Paul Vernon Brown, died July 31, 2008.

Visitation will be held from 11 a.m. — 1 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2024, at the Haskell & Morrison Funeral Home, 208 Ferry Street, Vevay, IN, 47043.

Funeral services will be conducted at 1 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2024, by Bro. Roy Duckworth, at the Haskell & Morrison Funeral Home, 208 Ferry Street, Vevay, IN, 47043.

Interment will follow in the Florence Cemetery, Florence, IN.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Florence Cemetery, or the Florence Church of Christ Building Fund. Cards are available at the funeral home, or online at www.haskell-landmorrison.com.

DEATH NOTICES

Gregory Cyril Higdon, 62, of Hanover, IN, died Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2024, at Norton Hospital in Louisville. A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10, at Grayson Funeral Home in New Washington, IN, with burial in Crown Hill Cemetery there, www.graysonfuneralhome.com.

Emma Mae Beach Wright, 68, of Carrollton, KY, died Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2024, at Carroll County Memorial Hospital in Carrollton. Memorial service is at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10, at Graham-Dunn Funeral Home in Carrollton, www.grahamdunnfh.com.

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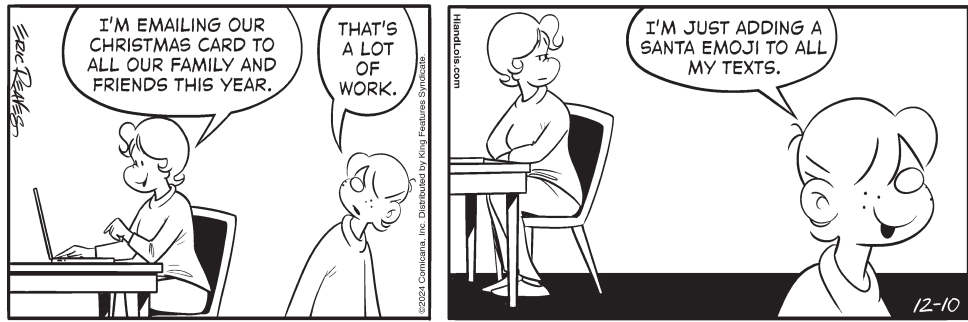
BEETLE BAILEY



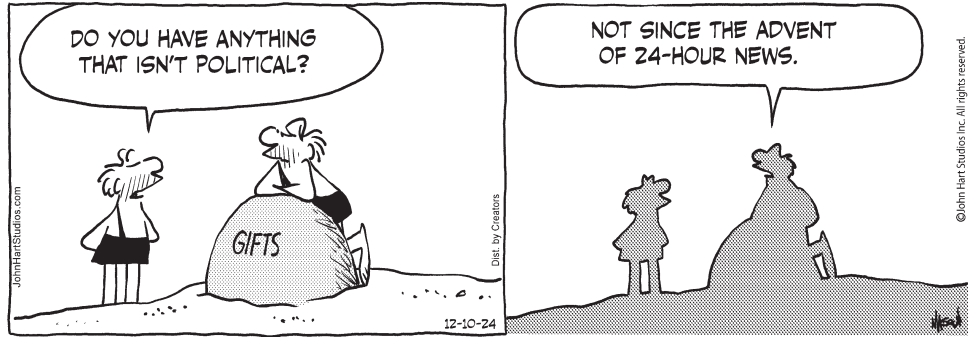
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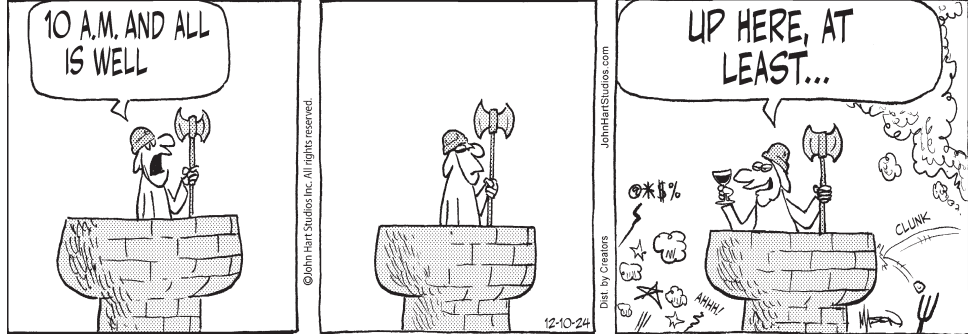
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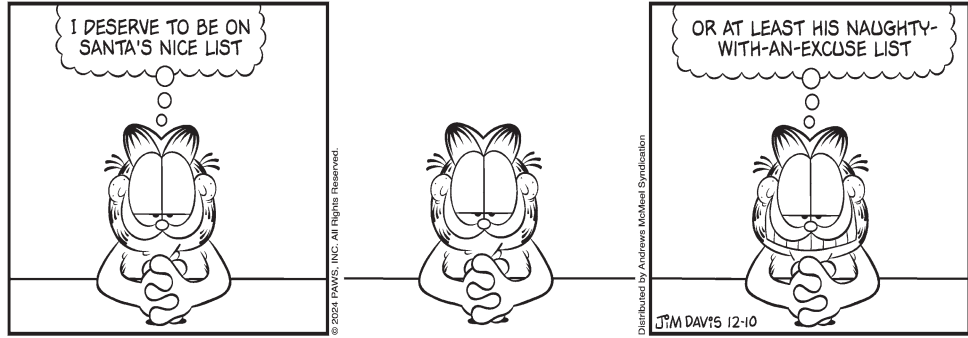
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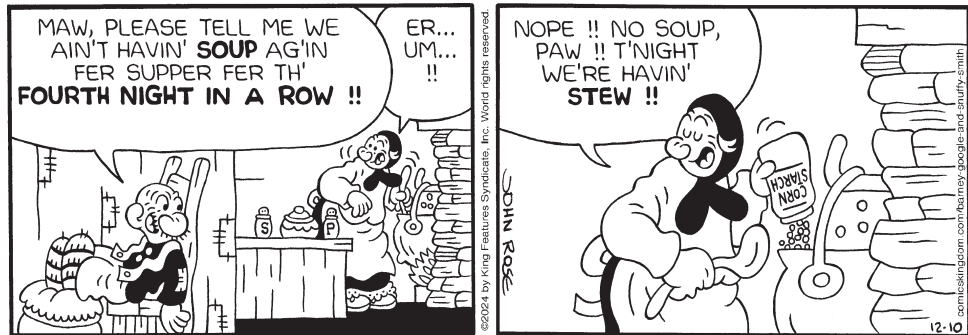
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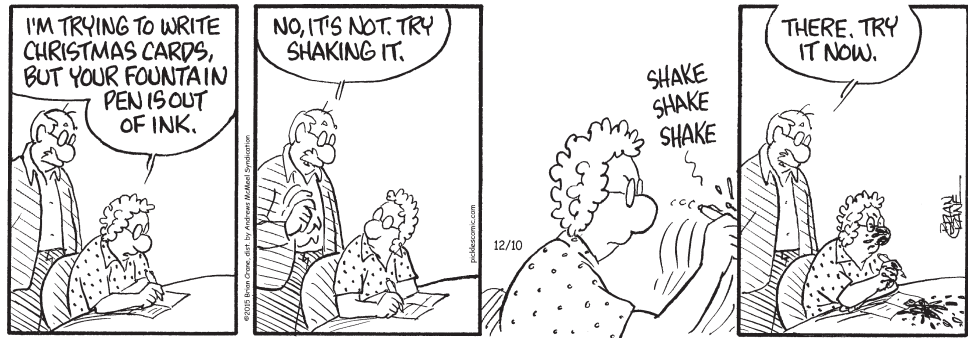
GARFIELD



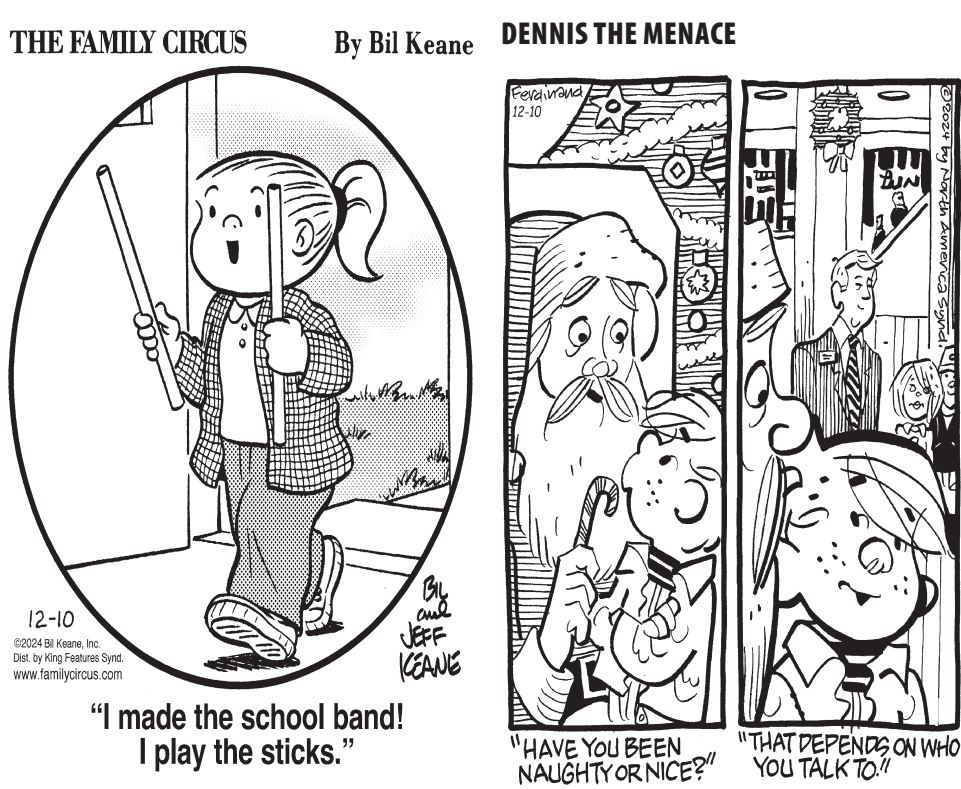
BARNEY GOOGLE AND SNUFFY SMITH



PICKLES



FAMILY CIRCUS



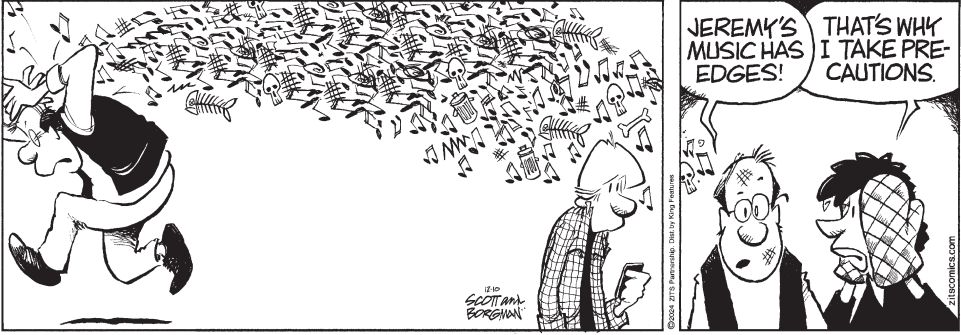
BABY BLUES



CURTIS



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TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 10, the 345th day of 2024. There are 21 days left in the year.

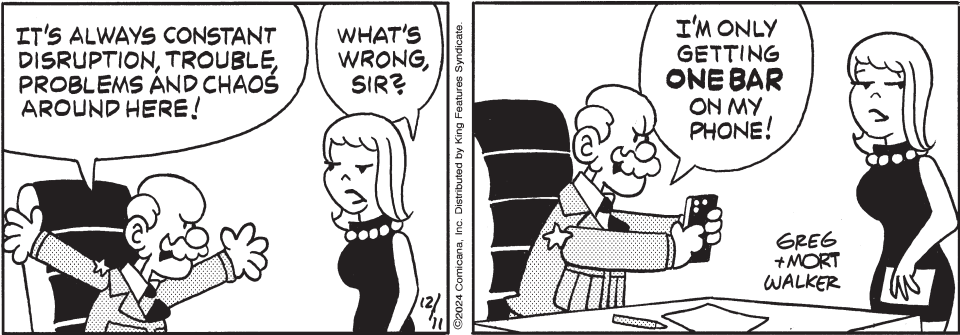
Today in history:
On Dec. 10, 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt became the first American to win a Nobel Prize, winning the Nobel Peace Prize for helping to negotiate peace in the Russo-Japanese War.

Also on this date:
In 1861, the Confederacy admitted Kentucky as it recognized a pro-Southern shadow state government that was acting without the authority of the pro-Union government in Frankfort.
In 1898, a treaty was signed in Paris officially ending the Spanish-American War.
In 1964, Martin Luther King Jr. received his Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, saying he accepted it "with an abiding faith in America and an audacious faith in the future of mankind."
In 1967, singer Otis Redding, 26, and six others were killed when their plane crashed into Wisconsin's Lake Monona; trumpeter Ben Cauley, a member of the group the Bar-Kays, was the only survivor.
In 1994, Yasser Arafat, Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin received the Nobel Peace Prize, pledging to pursue their mission of healing the anguished Middle East.
In 2007, former Vice President Al Gore accepted the Nobel Peace Prize with a call for humanity to rise up against a looming climate crisis and stop waging war on the environment.

In 2022, Morocco became the first African country to reach the World Cup semifinals by beating Portugal 1-0.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Fionnula Flanagan is 83. Actor-singer Gloria Loring is 78. Sen. John Boozman, R-Ark., is 74. Actor Susan Dey is 72. Jazz musician Diane Schuur is 71. Actor-director Kenneth Branagh is 64. Actor Nia Peeples is 63. TV chef Bobby Flay is 60. Rock musician Meg White (The White Stripes) is 50. Actor Emmanuelle Chriqui is 49. Actor Raven-Symone is 39. Actor/singer Teyana Taylor is 34. Actor Kiki Layne is 33. NFL quarterback Joe Burrow is 28. Cyclist Jonas Vingegaard is 28.

BEETLE BAILEY



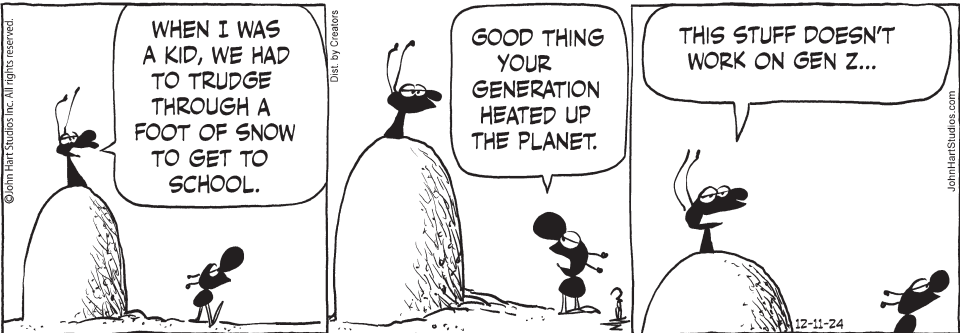
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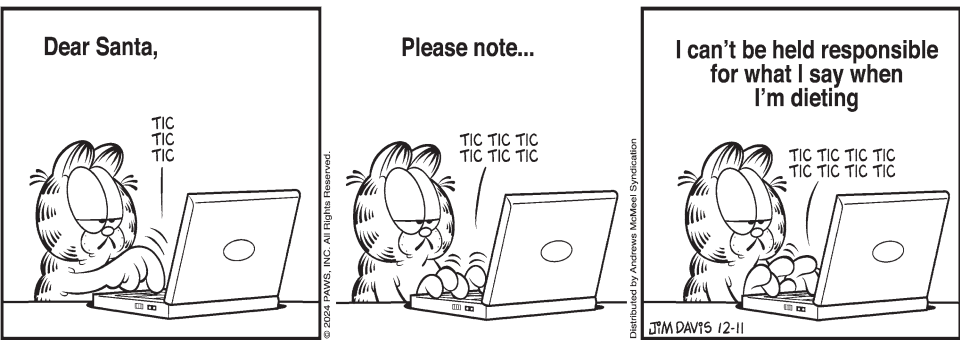
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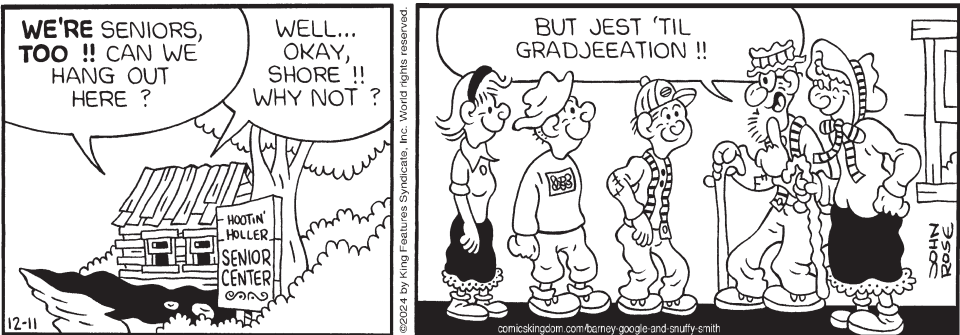
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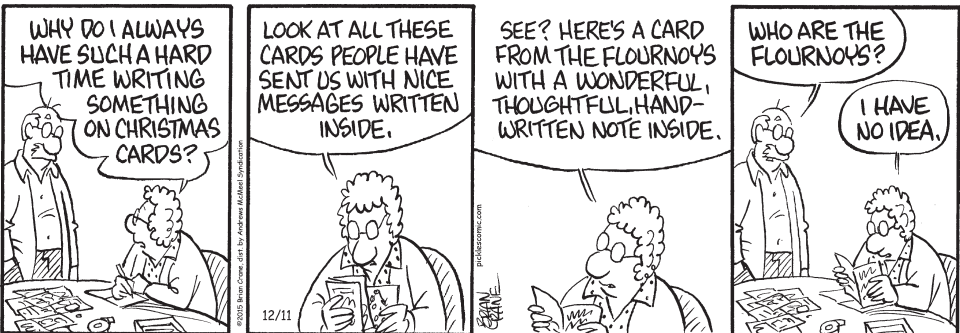
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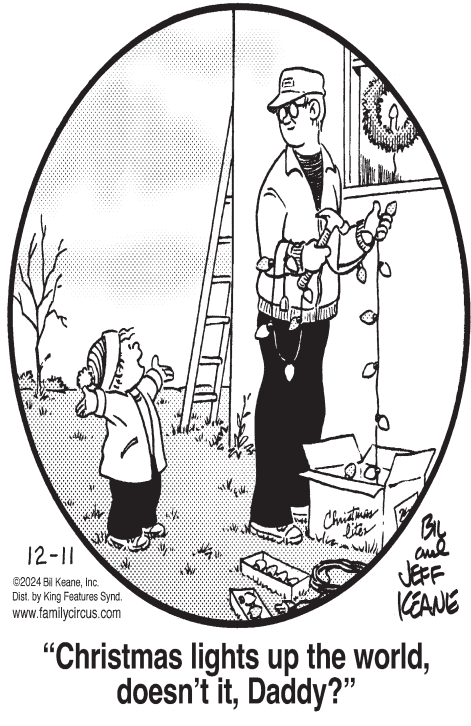


FAMILY CIRCUS

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

DENNIS THE MENACE



BABY BLUES



CURTIS



ZITS



TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 11, the 346th day of 2024. There are 20 days left in the year.

Today in history:
On Dec. 11, 1936, Britain's King Edward VIII abdicated the throne so he could marry American divorcee Wallis Warfield Simpson; his brother, Prince Albert, became King George VI.

Also on this date:
In 1946, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) was established.
In 1978, nearly \$6 million in cash and jewelry were stolen from the Lufthansa cargo terminal at New York's John F. Kennedy Airport; the "Lufthansa Heist," the largest cash robbery in history at the time, was immortalized in the film "Goodfellas."

In 1980, President Jimmy Carter signed legislation creating a \$1.6 billion environmental "Superfund" to pay for cleaning up hazardous chemical spills and toxic waste dumps.
In 1997, more than 150 countries agreed at a global warming conference in Kyoto, Japan, to control the Earth's greenhouse gases.
In 1998, majority Republicans on the House Judiciary Committee pushed through three articles of impeachment against President Bill Clinton, over Democratic objections.
In 2008, former Nasdaq chairman Bernie Madoff was arrested, accused of running a multibillion-dollar Ponzi scheme that wiped out the life savings of thousands of people and wrecked charities. (Madoff died in April 2021 while serving a 150-year federal prison sentence.)

In 2020, the Supreme Court rejected a lawsuit backed by President Donald Trump to overturn Joe Biden's election victory, ending an attempt to get legal issues that were rejected by state and federal judges before the nation's highest court.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Rita Moreno is 93. Former U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry is 81. Singer Brenda Lee is 80. Singer Jermaine Jackson is 70. Rock musician Nikki Sixx (Motley Crue) is 66. Actor-comedian Mo'Nique is 57. Hockey Hall of Famer Daniel Alfredsson is 52. Rapper-actor Yasiin Bey (formerly Mos Def) is 51. Actor Rider Strong is 45. Actor Hailee Steinfeld is 28.

County secures READI funding for campground

BY BOB DEMAREE

While the County Commissioners held a rare Friday morning meeting, the board of directors of the Our Southern Indiana Regional Development Authority were meeting at the same time in New Albany approving READI projects that included \$3 million in funding to develop a Krueger Lake Campground at the Jefferson Proving Ground.

Just before the Commissioners adjourned their 45-minute meeting, Commissioner David Bramer made the announcement about the grant funding.

“That will get us started,” said Bramer, noting the Commissioners will seek out an operator for the campground and then look to “get someone to build the campground” once funding is available next year.

The campground isn’t the only project that’s on the Commissioners’ minds for next year.

In September, the Commissioners expressed a commitment towards selecting LifeSpring Health System as vendor to develop a residential treatment facility for Jefferson County.

Commissioner Ron Lee said at Friday’s meeting they are waiting on a memorandum of understanding to be drafted by County Attorney Patrick Magrath before that project moves forward.

Last month, the Commissioners selected Grinsfelder Associates of Fort Wayne to do design work for a new Jefferson County Animal Shelter with hopes that having a plan in hand will help generate funding opportunities for building the facility.

Bramer said the Commissioners will have their first meeting with the architect on Dec. 13 towards developing plans for the potential new animal shelter.

In other action, the Commissioners:

- Approved an update to the county employee handbook that relates to time keeping in anticipation of a new system providing various means for county employees to register work time, depending on characteristics of each employee’s job.
- Approved contracts for American Rescue Plan funds already authorized for funding by the Council including \$20,000 for the Jefferson County Veterans Council to provide a fund for short-term housing in an effort to support veterans in need, \$15,000 for supplies and gear for a Hanover Township Volunteer Fire Department safety boat,

and \$12,000 for three county festivals — Canaan Fall Festival, Chelsea Jubilee and Neavill’s Grove Old Settlers Meeting, each receiving \$4,000.

- Reappointed Jenny Beverly and Kellen Cronen to the county’s Board of Zoning Appeals, and reappointed Beverly and Bramer to the county’s Plan Commission.
- Animal Shelter Director Trish Parker reported that she is working with Ivy Tech Community College in anticipation of the Veterinary School that is being developed with Hanover College. Parker said efforts will be made to reach out to farmers that will allow the veterinary tech students to observe what goes into an exam of larger farm animals.
- 911 Executive Director Brandon Tucker announced the 911 center is fully staffed for the first time in five years.

SUPPORT

FROM PAGE A1

However, no decision will be made until Schmidt Associates completes a preliminary design to know potential cost estimates which Brown is hopeful will be available by the end of January with anticipation that the board might decide whether to move forward in March.

Tony Steinhardt, the city of Madison’s economic development director, expressed his appreciation to the school corporation for considering developing a childcare center.

“We are a very lucky community having a group such as yourselves taking the lead in a very, very important topic in many communities throughout Indiana,” Steinhardt said. “The lack of childcare in our communities is a top, top issue for economic developers throughout the state of Indiana. It’s a key component to recruitment and retention of workers no matter where you are. “For Madison Consolidated Schools to be taking a leadership role to be trying to help solve that need, we certainly appreciate that from an economic development and a city of Madison perspective,” he added. “A key to growth and development in any community comes down to three really important things — quality of schools, quality of housing and quality of childcare” of which he said housing and childcare are two areas that “need work” in the city of Madison.

Josh Wilber, human resources director for Grote Industries, said childcare is a factor in being able recruit people to work for the company, but it’s also a factor

in retention of employees.

Wilber said there have been instances where an employee lost childcare and sought to work a different shift but “then we don’t have an opening on that shift, and we lose a good person because they go to another business because they couldn’t work that shift. It wasn’t because they didn’t like us, it’s because it’s just a matter of childcare, and that’s happened several times ... I would say it’s the number one reason why we lose people. There are many times it’s because of childcare because they need to be home with their kids.”

Shannon Allman, MCS director of human resources and finance, agreed with Wilber, noting that even though “recruitment is huge, retention is even bigger because we spend a whole lot of money on retraining and redoing, and every time we lose a good staff member, we’re losing the time they’ve developed relationships with our students, spent time in the classroom ... Being able to keep those employees is so important.”

Dr. Holly Robinson, a certified pediatrician, said early childcare is vital in the development of young lives. “When you don’t address things early, it’s really hard to make a change,” she said. “When you try to invest later, it just doesn’t work. We know the uphill battles that we fight in the education system when we try start at 5, it’s way too late. This is just amazing” that the school corporation is considering a childcare center. “There is ample data” to support that. “High quality childcare pays dividends,” said Robinson, citing higher graduation rates and higher educational attainment. “It pays off immedi-

ately in the community for those parents” in the healthy development of the child and “and then down the road for society because we don’t have to invest whether it’s our jails or societal supports, it just continues to pay.”

Shaun Pennington, MCS grants and compliance specialist, said it has shown in the iLearn scores of children who started school with the school corporation’s preschool through ages 10 or 11.

“If I take just those children, Madison Consolidated Schools is the number one corporation in the state of Indiana based on the scores of those children that started with us at 3 years old and maintained with us to 10 to 11,” Pennington noted. “From an academic standpoint, anyone in the community who starts with us day one as soon as they can, and sticks with us, we’re giving those students, based on percentages, the highest academic and capability in the state.” He said those who started at MCS in preschool are outscoring other students who weren’t in MCS preschool by 20 to 30 percent.

Morgan Hamilton, program manager for the Bethany Legacy Foundation, noted that in recent sessions with community leaders that childcare was a leader in their votes for the wants and needs, followed by a mental health crisis center.

Steinhardt also talked about the city’s need for housing, and that being a factor in the need for childcare with data showing more younger singles and couples are coming to Madison. “Look out 5 years from, we anticipate 600 plus housing units to be built here in the corporate limits, which we think will have a huge potential impact on the school

corporation in a very positive way,” he said.

Brown said if that’s the case then there will be more children in Madison schools and there will be a need to have space for them in the elementary schools.

“We currently have 13 preschool rooms in our school district which is a considerable number, and because of that all of our elementary school are completely full. We have no extra classrooms so when Tony talks about all the housing units — 600 plus new housing units — five years from now, and we’re at capacity with all four of our elementary schools, the only way we create room is to free up some of the spaces in our current schools. By moving the 13 preschool classrooms out the school buildings and putting them in another center that also frees up room at the elementary so the new students we hope to attract as well.”

Steinhardt said, “Investing in early childcare with our children is one of the most important investments you can make in the community,” adding that if Brown hadn’t taken leadership on the childcare center, the city and local economic development leaders would have done so. “Kudos to the Madison Consolidated Schools for doing so. There’s no better place to be doing the community’s work with our kids.”

School Board President John Wallace said, “This is a major undertaking for our school board. I want to publicly thank our superintendent Dr. Brown for picking this ball up and running with it. For quite some time, we all realized this was a great need which you expressed tonight, there is no doubt in our mind that it is.”

JENNER

FROM PAGE A1

In alignment with Governor-elect Braun’s agenda, the administration will focus on college and career readiness, improved literacy and math outcomes, universal school choice, and an increase in teacher base pay. “I am grateful to Governor-elect Braun for the opportunity to continue serving Indiana’s students, educators, and families as Secretary of Education,” said Jenner. “Over the past several years, we have made significant strides in expanding educational opportunities and ensuring our students are prepared for success in the classroom and beyond. Working together with Governor-elect Braun, our dedicated teachers, school leaders, the General Assembly and stakeholders across the state, we will build upon this progress while addressing the evolving needs of our education system. I look forward to advancing this vital mission in the years ahead.”

Jenner, who holds a doctorate in education from the University of Kentucky and an MBA from Indiana State University, currently leads the Department of Education and chairs the State Board of Education. She previously served as Governor Holcomb’s Senior Education Advisor, Vice President of K-12 Initiatives and Statewide Partnerships for Ivy Tech Community College.

The position of Secretary of Education was created by the Indiana General Assembly after it decided to remove the Superintendent of Public Instruction as an elected office by the voters of Indiana. The position Superintendent of Public Instruction ended when Jennifer McCormick completed her term in January of 2011.

PROJECTS

FROM PAGE A1

Hendricks moved to Madison in 1813 in the Indiana Territory, three years before Indiana became a state in 1816, and remained a Madison resident until his death in 1850 at the age of 67.

Kellems said the proposed Krueger Lake Campground would meet a huge demand for campsites with full amenities and hook ups. “What we are really talking about here is creating a major new regional park by better utilizing beautiful and accessible county-owned land,” Kellems said. “A vibrant county park at JPG would perfectly complement Madison’s and the region’s tourism and festival-driven economic growth.”

OurSIRDA approved a total of 21 projects, led by Clark County with four projects totaling \$12,222,837 — the biggest being a \$6.5 million Jeffboat Redevelopment project.

The other Clark County projects include a Starlight Wastewater Collection System, \$3 million; River Ridge Learning Center, \$933,503; Falls of Ohio Foundation Outdoor Education Pavilion, \$863,010; and Aspen Meadows in Charlestown, \$956,324.

Floyd County was awarded three projects totaling \$8,579,163, the largest being the Padgett District Redevelopment that includes multi-family housing with a commercial component.

Other Floyd County projects are Edwardsville School Community Center, \$2.05 million, and Georgetown Park improvements, \$1,49 million.

Washington County received \$7,923,000 for six projects — Washington County YMCA Childcare and Community Center, \$1.7 million; Washington County 4-H Community Building, \$1.2 million; New Pekin Amphitheater, \$846,000; High-density housing in Salem, \$3 million; and Mason Manor multi-family expansion, \$1 million.

Scott County was awarded \$5,300,000 for four projects — Maple Run development in Scottsburg and York Woods Crossing, \$2 million each, John Hill Childcare Center at the Scott County YMCA, \$1 million, and Scottsburg Industrial Development, \$300,000.

Dana Huber, OurSIRDA chair, said the approval of the 21 projects “is the culmination of hard work, community engagement, and partnerships going back

more than a year and a half” in which the regional development authority and its team “have been working tirelessly with the community and our partners at the state to get us here today. We have so much potential in our region, and these READI investments only catalyze the growth and development.”

It was incredibly tough narrowing down these investments, Huber said, “but utilizing our team and guidance from the state, we all feel confident that these projects are going to make the most impact for our region.

Today we are investing in the new age economic development priorities, housing, childcare, innovation and quality of life. We invested in these types of projects to drive growth and retention.”

Cory Cochran, the execu-

tive director of River Hills, which operates as the administrative staff for the RDA, said, “You rarely see this level of impact in a lifetime. What the RDA and this community has been able to do in just over five short years of existence is unmatched.”

Since 2021, OurSIRDA has garnered \$97.5 million in grants, Cochran said. “Those funds have been injected into almost 50 projects that are truly transformational. Thanks to the leadership of Governor Eric Holcomb and the entire IEDC team, we are grateful for the opportunity to impact this region in such a momentous way. We appreciate their recognition of potential and talent here.

This economic engine is almost built, I think it’s going to be pretty impressive on the track as we continue to fine

tune in the future.”

Before READI 2.0 funds are provided, at least 65% of funds from the grant’s first round must be dispersed.

So far, 57% of those funds have been dispersed and Cochran speculates the region will achieve the 65% goal between March and May of next year.

Even though OurSIRDA has announced the project allocations, the project must still undergo review by the IEDC and formal approval for each project in the coming months.

In other action, the region board of directors hired Sara Peterson of Bloomington as an arts and culture consultant.

Lilly Endowment provided \$1.5 million for arts and culture planning throughout the state in which grants were awarded to each of the 15 regions including \$100,000 to OurSIRDA.

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Harsin named Jefferson Co.'s 2024 Lilly scholar

BY SPECIAL TO THE COURIER
The Community Foundation of Madison and Jefferson County has announced William “Bodie” Harsin of Madison Consolidated High School recipient of the 2025 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship for Jefferson County.

Lilly Endowment Community Scholars are known for their community involvement, academic achievement, character, and leadership, and are awarded a full tuition scholarship to the Indiana four-year college or university of their choice.

Harsin plans to major in finance and minor in accounting at either Indiana University Bloomington or the University of Notre Dame. He is the son of Kyle and Amanda Harsin of Madison.

Among his many accomplishments, Harsin is ranked in the top of his class and is involved in the National Honor Society, plays for the varsity tennis and baseball teams, and participates on the Student Athletic Council.



Upon learning of the award, Harsin said, “I am overjoyed and grateful to be given the great honor to represent my community as the Jefferson County Lilly Endowment Scholar. I would like to thank God for giving me this opportunity, along with the Community Foundation, Lilly Endowment, and my friends and family who have built me up during this process.”

Five Jefferson County students ranked in the top 10% of their classes were selected as finalists for the 2025 scholarship. In addition to Harsin, the other finalists were” William Livingston, Madison Consolidated; Kelly McClure, Shawe Memorial; Lincoln Sheets, Madison Consolidated; and Emma Wynn, Madison Consolidated. These four finalists will each receive a \$1,500 Community Foundation Scholar Award from the Community Foundation of Madison and Jefferson County for their efforts and achievements.

In determining Jefferson

The scholarship is for full-time undergraduate students leading to a baccalaureate degree at any eligible Indiana public or private nonprofit college or university. Lilly Endowment Community Scholars may also participate in the Lilly Scholars Network (LSN), which connects both current scholars and alumni with resources and opportunities to be active leaders on their campuses and in their communities. Both the scholarship program and LSN are supported by grants from Lilly Endowment Inc. to ICI and Indiana Humanities.

County’s Lilly Endowment Community Scholar nominee, consideration was given to strong academics, school and community involvement, and character by the review committee. After the field of applicants was narrowed down, the nominee was submitted to Independent Colleges of Indiana (ICI), the statewide administrator of the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program, which approves the final selection of scholarship recipients.

Each Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship provides for full tuition, required fees and a special allocation of up to \$900 per year for required books and required equipment for four years.

The scholarship is for full-

time undergraduate students leading to a baccalaureate degree at any eligible Indiana public or private nonprofit college or university. Lilly Endowment Community Scholars may also participate in the Lilly Scholars Network (LSN), which connects both current scholars and alumni with resources and opportunities to be active leaders on their campuses and in their communities. Both the scholarship program and LSN are supported by grants from Lilly Endowment Inc. to ICI and Indiana Humanities.

Lilly Endowment Inc. created the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program for the 1997-98 school year.

Since then, grant funding totaling in excess of \$490 mil-

lion has supported more than 5,300 Indiana students who have received scholarships through the program.

The primary purposes of the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program are: 1) to help raise the level of educational attainment in Indiana; 2) to increase awareness of the beneficial roles Indiana community foundations can play in their communities; and 3) to encourage and support the efforts of current and past Lilly Endowment Community Scholars to engage with each other and with Indiana business, governmental, educational, nonprofit and civic leaders to improve the quality of life in Indiana generally and in local communities throughout the state.

Suspect linked to UnitedHealthcare CEO killing detained

BY MICHAEL R. SISAK AND CEDAR ATTANASIO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Police arrested a suspect Monday in the brazen Manhattan killing of UnitedHealthcare’s CEO after a quick-thinking McDonald’s employee in Pennsylvania alerted authorities to a customer who was found with a weapon, mask and writings linking him to the ambush.

The chance sighting at the restaurant in Altoona led to a dramatic break in a challenging but fast-moving investigation that had captivated the public in the five days since the shooting that shook the health insurance industry.

The suspect, identified by police as 26-year-old Luigi Nicholas Mangione, had a gun believed to be the one used in last Wednesday’s shooting of Brian Thompson, as well as writings suggesting anger with corporate America, police said.

Mangione was taken into custody about 9:15 a.m. after police got a tip that he was eating at a McDonald’s in Altoona, Pennsylvania, police said.

“He is believed to be our person of interest in the brazen, targeted murder of Brian Thompson,” NYPD Commissioner Jessica Tisch said.

Mangione had clothing and a mask similar to those worn by the shooter and a fraudulent New Jersey ID matching one the suspect used to check into a New York City hotel before the shooting, Tisch said.

NYPD Chief of Detectives Joseph Kenny said Mangione was born and raised in Maryland, has ties to San Francisco and a last known address in Honolulu, Hawaii. A message left Monday with a Philadelphia-area phone number connected to Mangione was not immediately returned.

He was being held in Pennsylvania on gun charges and eventually will be extradited to New York to face charges in connection with Thompson’s death, Kenny said.

Police found a three-page document with writings suggesting that Mangione had “ill will toward corporate America,” Kenny said.

The handwritten document “speaks to both his motivation and mindset,” Tisch said.

Mangione had a ghost gun, a type of weapon that can be assembled at home from parts without a serial number, making them difficult to trace, investigators said.

“As of right now the

information we’re getting from Altoona is that the gun appears to be a ghost gun that may have been made on a 3D printer, capable of firing a 9 mm round,” Kenny said.

Officers questioned Mangione, who was acting suspiciously and carrying multiple fraudulent IDs, as well as a U.S. passport, Tisch said. Officers found a suppressor, “both consistent with the weapon used in the murder,” the commissioner said.

NYPD detectives and staff from the Manhattan district attorney’s office traveled to Altoona to interview Mangione, Kenny said.

Thompson, 50, was killed last Wednesday as he walked alone to a hotel, where UnitedHealthcare’s parent company, UnitedHealth Group, was holding its annual investor conference, police said.

The shooter appeared to be “lying in wait for several minutes” before approaching the executive from behind and opening fire, police said. He used a 9 mm pistol that police

said resembled the guns farmers use to put down animals without causing a loud noise.

Mangione attended an elite Baltimore prep school, graduating as valedictorian in 2016, according to the school’s website. In his graduation speech, he talked about his classmates’ “incredible courage to explore the unknown and try new things.”

He went on to earn undergraduate and graduate degrees in computer science in 2020 from the University of Pennsylvania, a school spokesman said.

In the days since the shooting, police turned to the public for help by releasing a collection of nine photos and video — including footage of the attack, as well as images of the suspect at a Starbucks beforehand.

On Monday, police credited news outlets for disseminating the images and the tipster for recognizing the suspect and calling authorities.

“Luckily, a citizen in Pennsylvania recognized the subject and called

local members of the Altoona Police Department responded to the call, and based on their investigation, they notified the NYPD,” Kenny said.

Photos taken in the lobby of a hostel on Manhattan’s Upper West Side showed the suspect grinning after removing his mask, police said.

Investigators earlier suggested the gunman may have been a disgruntled employee or client of the insurer.

Ammunition found near Thompson’s body bore the words “delay,” “deny” and “depose,” mimicking a phrase used by insurance industry critics.

The gunman concealed his identity with a mask during the shooting yet left a trail of evidence, including a backpack he ditched in Central Park, a cell-phone found in a pedestrian plaza and a water bottle and protein bar wrapper that police say he bought at Starbucks minutes before the attack.

On Friday, police found the backpack that they say the killer discarded as he fled from the crime scene to an uptown bus station, where they believe he left the city.

Retracing the gunman’s steps using surveillance video, investigators say the shooter fled into Cen-

tral Park on a bicycle, emerged from the park without his backpack and then ditched the bicycle.

He then walked a couple blocks and got into a taxi, arriving at at the George Washington Bridge Bus Station, which is near the northern tip of Manhattan and offers commuter service to New Jersey and Greyhound routes to Philadelphia, Boston and Washington, Kenny said.

The FBI announced late Friday that it was offering a \$50,000 reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction, adding to a reward of up to \$10,000 that the NYPD offered.

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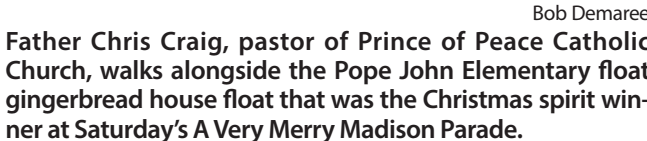
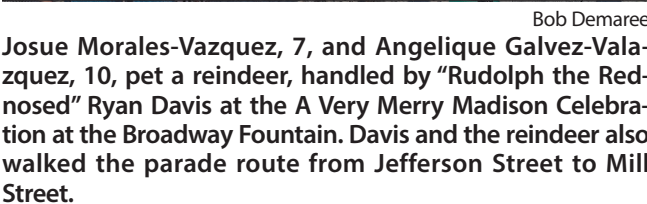
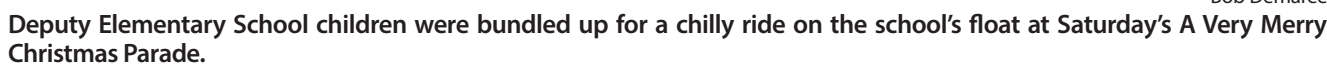
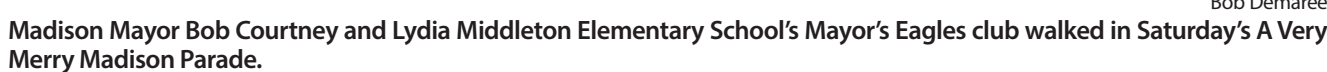
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Madison comeback falls short in 60-57 loss to Corydon

BY DAVID CAMPBELL
Madison rallied from a 10-point first-quarter deficit to take the lead in the fourth but couldn't finish the comeback in a 60-57 boys basketball loss to Corydon on Saturday in Madison.

T-Mac Wilkinson scored a bucket and was fouled with 6.6 seconds left for Corydon to break a 57-57 tie. Wilkinson hit the free throw to put the Panthers ahead by three and Mason Davis' game-tying 3-pointer at the buzzer banged off the rim as the Cubs lost for the third time in three games this season.

Despite the loss, first-year Madison coach Danny Gibson was pleased with his team's effort. But he also knows that there is plenty of room for improvement.

"They came out a little slow, but I was proud of them in the second quarter and on. We played our defense and they started fighting," Gibson said. "It wasn't the result we want-

ed but we are improving, even though we might not be able to see it in our record. But I think the guys are improving."

The idea that Madison would have a chance to win the game late seemed ridiculous after Corydon dominated the first four minutes of the game. Unable to do much of anything, Madison quickly found itself in a 14-4 hole and still trailed 20-11 after the first quarter.

But before Corydon could turn the game into a rout, Madison regrouped and outscored the Panthers the rest of the way. Six-foot-five junior Zachary Vinup found his footing inside and the Cubs quickly got back into the game, cutting the lead to 25-24 on a Davis 3-pointer late in the second.

It was in the third quarter where Madison (0-3) shined. The Cubs outscored Corydon 24-14 over that eight-minute stretch and took a 49-45 lead into the fourth.

Madison quickly pushed the lead to six (51-45) — its largest lead of the night — on a Damon Harden bucket but Corydon answered quickly, tying the game on a 3-pointer by Grant Lindemann, a free throw from Devon Murphy and another basket by Lindemann.

Madison held its final lead at 55-53 with 2:53 to go after a Harden basket and was locked in a 57-57 tie with 28 seconds left after a score by Vinup. Corydon had possession and used the clock, finally getting the winning bucket and free throw by Wilkinson.

Madison had a timeout left and Gibson used it to set a final play. Davis got a good look off just outside the arc but his attempt was inches wide.

For Gibson, the game was an example of how his team is still trying to learn how to win. While they made several nice plays during the game,

they were unable to finish off the win down the stretch.

"We're working on learning how to win. And that includes me as a young coach," Gibson said. "We're just changing the mentality around here."

Vinup had his best varsity game to date, scoring 22 points and grabbing 12 rebounds to lead Madison. Harden had 14 points and five assists, Davis had 11 points and Landon True scored eight.

Wilkinson had 22 points to lead Corydon (3-1), Lindemann scored 16 and Jack Fessel added 15.

Madison suffered a similar loss at home to Jennings County on Friday, 74-66. In that game, the Cubs battled but couldn't get over the hump against their former Hoosier Hills Conference rivals. Davis had 22 points in the loss.

Madison travels to South Dearborn on Friday and hosts Brownstown on Saturday.



David Campbell
Corydon's Devon Murphy (11) blocks the shot of Madison's Mason Davis (1) during the Cubs' loss on Saturday.



David Campbell
Shawe's Audrey Barron (20) shoots over Southwestern's Savannah Nussbaum (3) during the Hilltoppers' win on Friday in Hanover.



David Campbell
Shawe's Ava Turner (left) and Allison Knoebel trap Southwestern's Chloey Leach during the Hilltoppers' win on Friday in Hanover.

Shawe girls get payback in 51-32 rout of Southwestern

BY JORDAN BEAR
Shawe has been waiting a year for payback on Southwestern after dropping a tough game at home to the Rebels one year ago, a loss which jump-started Southwestern's run to an Ohio River Valley Conference Championship.

The Hilltoppers did not make that mistake again, piling on and routing the Rebels 51-32 in ORVC girls basketball on Friday night in Hanover.

"Great win, great effort by the girls. They remembered what happened last year and they had this game circled," Shawe coach Drew Kring said. "All of them did great. Every single player that played tonight I thought contributed to us winning and I'm proud of them."

The game got off to a slow-moving start, as the Rebels slowed play with a half-court style and hung with Shawe to trail just 11-8 at the end of the first quarter. Shawe tried to pull away in the second quarter, extending its lead to 10, but Southwestern wouldn't go away and trailed only 23-16 going into halftime.

Everything changed in the third quarter as the Hilltoppers came out on fire, turned the Rebels over repeatedly for easy buckets and began to pull away. Shawe led 45-21 going into the final period and by as many as 26 before rolling to its second ORVC win of the season.

"I thought Baleigh McAfee really fought hard defensively guarding Audrey, but she's good and Audrey is sometimes just going to hit shots."

— Brian Crank
Southwestern coach

While much of the focus going into the game was on senior Allison Knoebel, who entered the game needing only 11 points to reach 1,000 in her career, it was junior Audrey Barron who continued her incredible year, dominating the game with a double-double of 26 points and 11 rebounds.

After missing the game last year due to injury, Barron knew this was a matchup she wanted to show out for.

"It feels great. After last year when I had to watch, I just wanted to win as bad as we could and I'm happy," Barron said. "My shot felt good, I just knew that if everyone chipped in we would be fine. Everyone did great. My teammates were great tonight."

Kring says having a player like Barron makes life easier as a coach.

"I mean, she makes my job easy the way she plays," Kring said with a laugh. "She's a truly special player. She makes me look good as a coach, but I'm also proud of everyone else. All five main players all contributed and that's why we won."

Southwestern coach Brian

Crank knew guarding Barron would be tough.

"I thought Baleigh McAfee really fought hard defensively guarding Audrey, but she's good and Audrey is sometimes just going to hit shots," Crank said. "We had three really good practices going into this game and we just didn't do some things right and against the three players Shawe has, you can't have a game like that."

Knoebel finished with eight points, needing only three to reach 1,000. Ava Turner was also in double figures with 12 points while Jamison Williams finished with five points. Southwestern was led by McAfee's 12 points, Rorie Scroggins scored nine and Sophie Ford had five.

Shawe's players entered the game with heavy hearts and were playing for Pope John fifth grader, Caroline McRoberts, who is currently battling brain cancer.

"We just wanted to tell Caroline that we love you, we're praying for you, and we're playing for you every game," Kring said.

Shawe, now 5-2 overall and 2-0 ORVC, hosts Hauser on Tuesday and then hosts South Ripley on Thursday in a game that could go a long way toward deciding who wins the conference championship.

Southwestern, now 5-3 overall and 0-1 ORVC, hosts Milan on Tuesday and New Washington on Thursday before traveling to South Central on Saturday.

Southwestern swimmers open at Lawrenceburg

BY THE COURIER STAFF
Southwestern's swim team finally got a chance to hit the pool for a meet with the girls placing third in the seven-team Lawrenceburg Invitational on Saturday.

Pool construction at Southwestern since March has forced the Rebels to train at Madison's pool but the team has shown quick improvement.

"With only about nine hours of water time borrowed from Madison, the kids are swimming as well as or, in several cases, better than they did at the end of last season," Southwestern coach Shelly Anderson said. "These kids keep encouraging us in our quest to return to our pool. It's not often that a swimmer gets rug burns during practice, but that's what dryland does to you. Our hope is to return to our water on Monday and host a meet on Tuesday. We're keeping our fingers crossed."

However, that may not be likely after the setback the program was dealt on Friday and Saturday. A check of the pool on Friday discovered one leak and another check on Saturday found two leaks so Anderson said the pool opening has once again been pushed back.

Raygan Crawford and Natalee Crawford each had

a pair of wins for Southwestern. Raygan won the 100-yard butterfly in 1:08.61 and Natalee won the 100 backstroke in 1:04.22. The pair then teamed with Riley Crawford and Alexis Dean-Wells to win the 400 free-style relay in 4:22.39.

Other top finishes for the Southwestern girls were: Natalee Crawford, second, 200 free, 2:19.12; Raygan Crawford, second, 200 IM, 2:39.86; Riley Crawford, second, 100 free, 1:03.34 and second, 100 back, 1:14.53; Adalei Watson, Mae Pierson, Sophia Carrie and Haylee Crawford, third, 200 free relay, 2:18.07; Haylee Crawford, fifth, 200 free, 2:36.13; and Dean-Wells, fifth, 500 free, 7:14.92.

Shawe's Matthew Vaughn won the boys 200 free in 1:59.69 and was third in the 100 free in 52.30. Southwestern's Shane Hardy was 12th in the boys 50 free in 33.36 and 14th in the 100 free in 1:18.01, and Robert De Paz Gonzalez was 15th in the 50 free in 37:08 and 17th in the 100 free in 1:28.16.

Southwestern is scheduled to host Shawe and South Ripley on Tuesday and Providence and Rising Sun on Thursday. The Rebels then compete in the Seymour Invitational on Saturday.

LOCAL SPORTS CALENDAR			
TUESDAY, DEC. 10		Charlestown, 6 p.m.	
BASKETBALL		THURSDAY, DEC. 12	
Shawe girls host Hauser, 6 p.m.		BASKETBALL	
Carroll Co. girls host Beechwood, 7:30 p.m.		Shawe girls host South Ripley, 6 p.m.	
Madison girls at New Washington, 7:30 p.m.		Southwestern girls host New Washington, 7:30 p.m.	
Madison Christian boys host Shawe, 7:30 p.m.		Trimble Co. boys host Carroll Co., 7:30 p.m.	
Southwestern girls host Milan, 7:30 p.m.		SWIMMING	
Switzerland Co. girls at Franklin Co., 7:30 p.m.		Madison hosts Greensburg, 6 p.m.	
Trimble Co. boys host Frankfort Christian, 7:30 p.m.		Southwestern hosts Shawe, Providence, Rising Sun, 6 p.m.	
SWIMMING		Switzerland Co. hosts Oldenburg, South Ripley, 6 p.m.	
Madison at Floyd Central, 6 p.m.		FRIDAY, DEC. 13	
Southwestern hosts Shawe, South Ripley, ppd pool repairs		BASKETBALL	
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 11		Madison boys at South Dearborn, 7:30 p.m.	
WRESTLING		Shawe boys host Jac-Cen-Del, 7:30 p.m.	
Madison boys host Switzerland Co., 6 p.m.		Southwestern boys at New Washington, 7:30 p.m.	
Madison girls host Switzerland Co., 6 p.m.		Switzerland Co. boys at Rising Sun, 7:30 p.m.	
Southwestern at			

Southwestern boys shrug off slow start to rout Shawe 64-29

BY JORDAN BEAR
After neither team was able to score in the first 4:30 of the game, but Southwestern scored 13 points in the final two minutes of the quarter and never looked back in a 64-29 win over Shawe in boys basketball at home on Friday.

Shawe did its best to stay close, but after losing 70% of its scoring from a year ago to graduation, and being unable to keep up with Southwestern's ball movement, the Rebels were able to quickly take full control and never look back.

"The way the game started was not exactly what I wanted but I knew we had the advantage in the post so I wanted Landon (Kidwell) to get some touches, and

then our guards stepped up also," Southwestern coach Zac Nussbaum said. "I thought everybody contributed and played great defense, knocked down shots, moved the ball well, and that's what we have to do to be successful as the season goes on."

Southwestern's quick finish to the first quarter staked the Rebels to a 16-5 lead and they expanded that to 33-11 by halftime. But it was the third quarter where the Rebels blew the game open, outscoring Shawe 24-8 over that eight-minute span to carry a 57-19 lead in the fourth quarter. With a running clock in effect, the final eight minutes ticked off quickly.

Southwestern ended up shooting 51% from the floor and knocked down 11-of-23 3-point attempts in the win. Kidwell used his 6-foot-7 frame to dominate the Hilltoppers inside, scoring 17 points and grabbing eight rebounds, but it was Caleb Goode who led the Rebels in scoring with a career-high 19 points.

Shawe, which was 1-of-10 on 3-pointers, struggled all night to score with only Braiden Smith, the Hilltoppers' lone varsity starter back from a year ago, reaching double figures with 12 points. Gus Grote and Cavaan Hambrick scored six points each.

Southwestern then dropped its first loss of the year on Saturday night as

the Rebels fell to Columbus East 71-55 at home.

Southwestern trailed just 51-50 going into the final quarter but the Olympians outscored the Rebels 20-5 over the final eight minutes to scored their first-ever win over Southwestern.

Kidwell had 20 points, Braxton Lewis scored 11 and Adam Traylor had nine points for the Rebels.

Southwestern, now 2-1 overall and 1-0 Ohio River Valley Conference, travels to New Washington on Friday and then to Batesville on Saturday.

Shawe, now 0-3 overall and 0-1 ORVC, heads to Christian Academy of Madison on Tuesday before hosting Jac-Cen-Del on Friday.



David Campbell
Shawe's Braiden Smith (25) and Southwestern's Adam Traylor (2) battle for a loose ball during the Rebels' win on Friday.

HS BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Carroll girls edge KCD to improve to 2-0

BY THE COURIER STAFF
Carroll County girls basketball improved to 2-0 on the season with a 39-32 win over Kentucky Country Day on Friday in a game played at Carroll County Middle School.

Kelby Maiden scored 12 points and Elle Spencer had 10 to lead Carroll. Spencer also had eight rebounds and Josie Dale had six boards.

Carroll hosts Beechwood on Tuesday and then travels to Trimble County on Friday.

TRIMBLE GIRLS RALLY FOR WIN
Trimble County ral-

lied from a four-point deficit in the third quarter to defeat Louisville Holy Cross 47-35 in girls basketball Thursday at home.

Ainslie Stark had 24 points to lead the Raiders while Jolie Wilcoxson scored eight and Kendra Mahoney had seven.

Trimble, now 1-1 on the season, hosts Carroll County on Friday.

SWITZERLAND GIRLS POST WIN
Switzerland County dominated the middle quarters to beat Christian Academy of Indiana 57-29 in girls basketball at

home on Saturday.

Switzerland outscored the Warriors 30-12 over the second and third quarters to claim the win.

Switzerland, now 3-5 on the season, travels to Franklin County on Tuesday and host Shawe on Saturday.

CARROLL BOYS FALL TO AUGUSTA
Carroll County suffered an 81-56 loss at Augusta on Friday.

No stats from the game were available.

Carroll, now 0-2 on the season, travels to Trimble County on Thursday.

Hanover swept by rival Franklin in basketball doubleheader

BY THE COURIER STAFF
Hanover College suffered a doubleheader sweep at the hands of rival Franklin on Saturday in Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference basketball. The women lost 71-70 and the men fell 74-66.

Jordan Coon's layup with five seconds to go lifted Franklin to the 71-70 win over Hanover. The Panthers took a 57-48 lead into the fourth quarter but Franklin rallied to led 69-66 with 37

seconds to play.

Alexis Wines scored in the paint for Hanover (6-2, 2-1 HCAC) to close the gap to one and after a Franklin turnover, Grace Bezold gave the Panthers the lead on a layup with nine seconds left.

But the Grizzlies quickly attacked and went ahead thanks to Coons's bucket four seconds later. Kady Clancy's potential game-winner with one second to go missed.

Bezold had a monster double-double of 24

points and 20 rebounds to lead Hanover. Wines had 15 points, three steals and three assists and Clancy had 15 points.

The men's game wasn't as close as Franklin pulled away late for the 74-66 win.

C.J. Walls had 18 points for Hanover (5-2, 1-1 HCAC) while Coleman Sater scored 14. Madison's Luke Miller added seven points in the loss.

Both Hanover teams host Manchester on Saturday.

Madison girls roll to victory in own swim invite

BY THE COURIER STAFF
Madison girls swim team scored 228 points to easily win the Madison Invitational Saturday at home. A total of 11 teams competed in the event with Corydon placing second with 165 points and New Albany third with 127.

Switzerland County finished fifth in the event with 49 points and had several impressive performances with four personal-best times.

The 200-yard freestyle relay team of Molly Hicks, Lilly Bevis, Eva Hicks and Piper Taylor placed fourth while the medley relay team of Lily Jester, Eva Hicks, Molly Hicks and Taylor placed seventh, dropping four seconds off their season best relay time.

Molly Hicks placed seventh out of 13 in the 200 individual medley, Eva Hicks was sixth in the 100 breaststroke and Jester placed 15th in the 200-yard freestyle, setting a new personal best time with an impressive 32-second drop.

No individual results for Madison were available.

On Thursday, Switzerland placed fourth in a quad meet against South Dearborn, Milan and Rising Sun, scoring 59 points. Milan had 206 points, South Dearborn 196 and Rising Sun 76.

Molly Hicks, Bevis, Eva Hicks and Taylor were second in the 200 free relay. Taylor was second in the 200 IM and third

in the 100 free, Eva Hicks was third in the 500 freestyle, and Jester, Eva Hicks, Molly Hicks and Taylor placed third in the 200 medley relay.

On the boys side, Switzerland's three swimmers totals four personal-bests. Caleb Ridener was second in the 200 IM and third in the 100 back, Harlowe Haines swam the 200 free in a personal best time and the 500 free in under seven minutes and Seth Burke had personal bests in both the 50 free and 100 free.

Madison travels to Floyd Central on Tuesday and hosts Greensburg on Thursday. Switzerland County hosts Oldenburg and South Ripley on Thursday.

Switzerland boys roll to wins over Trimble, Clarksville

BY THE COURIER STAFF
Switzerland County boys basketball posted a pair of impressive blowout wins over Clarksville and Trimble County over the weekend.

On Friday, the Pacers hammered Clarksville 74-35 on the road. Cam Craig had 26 points and 11 rebounds for Switzerland, Mason Peelman had 13 points and five assists, Carson Griffith had 12 points and five assists, Isaac Williams had 11 points and

Cooper Todd had 10 points, six steals, five assists and four rebounds.

On Saturday, Switzerland whipped Trimble County 64-25 at home. Todd had an impressive game with 10 points, 16 rebounds and seven assists, Williams had 18 points and six rebounds, Craig had 10 points and seven rebounds and Cale Collier had nine points.

Freshman Hudson Jent led Trimble County with eight points while Ethan Keller and Trenton Keller

scored five points each and Dylan Penick led the Raiders in rebounding with six.

On Thursday, Trimble suffered a 97-49 loss at Ludlow. Penick had 18 points for Trimble, Ethan Keller scored 10 points and Jent and Hayden Webster scored eight points each.

Switzerland, now 3-1 on the season, travels to Rising Sun on Friday. Trimble, now 0-3 on the year, hosts Ledford Christian on Tuesday and Carroll County on Thursday.

F1 in 2025: Close racing, Hamilton at Ferrari and plenty of new faces

BY JAMES ELLINGWORTH
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Even before he'd parked his car after winning the last Formula 1 race of 2024, Lando Norris made a vow to be champion in 2025.

"Next year is going to be my year, too," Norris, who was runner-up to Max Verstappen this year, told the McLaren team over the radio.

After four different teams won races in 2024, next year could see an even closer contest for the title. Lewis Hamilton will be aiming for an eighth career championship at his new team, Ferrari, and there'll be ambitious young drivers joining the grid.

CLOSE COMPETITION
Major rule changes in F1 tend to shake up the established order, but can let one team gain a big advantage.

When the same rules are in place for a while, teams tend to be more evenly matched. The season-long competition for the title in 2021 between Verstappen and Lewis Hamilton preceded a rule change for 2022.

Expect McLaren and Norris to be in the hunt next time.

"The one thing I've learned this year is probably to believe in myself a bit more," Norris said Sunday. "I've certainly not come out on top as often as I would have liked in certain moments as a driver, especially in my fights against Max. As much as it hurts sometimes, I'm probably happy about it now that I'm going to go into next



Darko Bantic | Associated Press
McLaren driver Lando Norris of Britain wins the Formula One Abu Dhabi Grand Prix at the Yas Marina Circuit in Abu Dhabi, UAE, Sunday.

season knowing that I can fight."

Some worry focusing on 2025 could hurt them in the long run, and may be tempted to aim for 2026 instead.

Carlos Sainz Jr. on Sunday said his new team, Williams, is "preparing to maximize that chance" in 2026. Aston Martin has Adrian Newey, widely considered F1's greatest designer, heading up its development after he left Red Bull. Audi is turning Sauber into its works team for 2026 and General Motors is joining the grid with its Cadillac brand and may

already have a head start on development.

"Obviously, the earlier start, the bigger advantage you have," Red Bull team principal Christian Horner said, "but if there is a tight championship (in 2025) and it does go down to the wire, then that's going to be a tough balancing act."

HAMILTON AT FERRARI
A seven-time champion in Ferrari red.

Hamilton's move to the storied Italian team could bring back

memories of Michael Schumacher, the only other driver to win seven titles in F1.

After an emotional farewell to Mercedes on Sunday, Hamilton's focus will shift quickly to 2025. No driver has won the F1 title with Ferrari since Kimi Raikkonen beat then-rookie Hamilton by a single point in 2007.

"Lewis has achieved so much in the sport and it will be a big motivation," his future teammate Charles Leclerc said Sunday.

Hamilton, F1's only Black driver, has also said he wants to con-

tinue his efforts to improve diversity in F1 when he joins his new team.

NEW CHALLENGERS ON THE GRID
Could 2025 be the year the next generation of drivers upsets F1's biggest names?

The biggest rookie class in years arrives in F1 with plenty of hype as 18-year-old Andrea Kimi Antonelli steps up from Formula 2 to replace Hamilton at Mercedes.

Olivier Bearman joins Haas after impressive stand-in drives this year, while F2 champion Gabriel Bortoletto moves to Sauber. Alpine gave its new driver Jack Doohan, son of a motorcycle racing great, an early taste of F1 at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, where he was 15th. Post-season tests Tuesday in Abu Dhabi offer a chance to get valuable experience.

The new arrivals mean experienced drivers will be off the F1 grid.

Ten-time GP winner Valtteri Bottas is likely heading back to Mercedes as a reserve next year after leaving Sauber. Kevin Magnussen, Zhou Guanyu and Franco Colapinto are also without race seats for 2025.

Then there's Sergio Perez. Second to Verstappen in the 2023 standings, the Mexican driver was nowhere near his Red Bull teammate's pace this season and has faced repeated speculation he will be dropped for 2025 despite a contract extension agreed in June.

CFP has Indiana at Notre Dame with Georgia awaiting winner

BY ERIC OLSON
AP COLLEGE FOOTBALL WRITER

Indiana will turn in its calling card as the nation's biggest basketball state and become a college football hot spot the week before Christmas.

The College Football Playoff bracket released Sunday sends No. 10 seed Indiana to No. 7 Notre Dame for a first-round game on Dec. 20 with the winner facing No. 2 Georgia in the Sugar Bowl in a quarter-final game on Jan. 1.

The Indiana and Notre Dame campuses are separated by 200 miles in the Hoosier State, but their football teams haven't met since 1991 and before that 1958. Notre Dame leads the series 22-3.

"Regardless of who we play, this is the playoffs and you win or go home, and we're in it to win it," Indiana coach Curt Cignetti said. "Our odds of making the College Football Playoff at the beginning of the season, I don't know what they were but they were pretty darn low, I'm sure. We were picked 17th out of 18 teams in the Big Ten. Our odds of winning the next four games are probably significantly higher than they were of making the playoffs in the first



AP Photo/Ryan Sun

Notre Dame head coach Marcus Freeman, center, and his players will face Indiana University in their College Football Playoff opener on Dec. 20 — their first meeting since 1991.

place. We've climbed that mountain."

The last time Notre Dame (11-1) and Indiana (11-1) played, Rick Mirer and Jerome Bettis led the to a 49-27 win in South Bend on an 86-degree September afternoon 33 years ago. The temperature will be quite a bit cooler when the teams meet at Notre Dame Stadium in less than two weeks.

Georgia (11-2) earned the Southeastern Conference's automatic bid and first-round bye by beating

Texas in overtime on Saturday with quarterback Carson Beck missing the second half with an injury to his right (throwing) arm. The Bulldogs have won all three meetings with Notre Dame, all of them high-stakes games, and have never faced Indiana.

Though in the same state, Notre Dame and Indiana have been on opposite ends of the college football world. Notre Dame is among five schools with more than

900 all-time wins. The Hoosiers' 691 all-time losses are second-most to Northwestern's 703. Notre Dame claims 13 national championships; Indiana has played in 13 bowls.

Cignetti, hired just over a year ago after a successful run at James Madison, has led the Hoosiers to their most wins in a season and eight more wins than they had a year ago.

"This team has accomplished a lot," he said. "Saying that, no one is satisfied. The players are

hungry for more. The coaches are hungry for more."

Notre Dame has won 10 straight games since getting upset by Northern Illinois. coach Marcus Freeman said the only downside to playing the Hoosiers is that the didn't draw an opponent from a warm-weather climate.

"The weather obviously isn't going to give us a huge advantage with them not being too far south from here," he said. "But what a great storyline,

what a great opportunity it's going to be to have two in-state teams playing each other in the first playoff game on a campus."

Georgia coach Kirby Smart worked with Cignetti when both were on Nick Saban's staff at Alabama from 2007-10, and he said it's been "really neat, really cool" to see the Hoosiers' transformation.

The Bulldogs' first meeting with Notre Dame came in the 1981 Sugar Bowl. Vince Dooley's 1980 Bulldogs finished a 12-0, national championship season with a 17-10 win. A freshman and future Heisman Trophy winner, Herschel Walker, rushed for 150 yards and two touchdowns with a dislocated shoulder to lead the Bulldogs.

Their other two games were early season contests in 2017 and 2019, both Georgia wins.

The Bulldogs will make their 11th appearance in the Sugar Bowl and first since the 2019 season.

"One of the first games I remember actually seeing and watching back in the early '80s as a 5- or 6-year-old kid, Herschel Walker and the moments that happened in the Sugar Bowl all the way through games I've been a part of," Smart said.

CFP's first 12-team bracket set with Oregon No. 1

BY EDDIE PELLIS
AP NATIONAL WRITER

The new, 12-team College Football Playoff brings with it a promise to be bigger, more exciting, more lucrative.

Perfect or 100% fair? Well, nobody ever believed that.

The first expanded playoff bracket unveiled Sunday left a presumably deserving Alabama team on the sideline in favor of an SMU squad that finished with a better record after playing a schedule that was not as difficult.

It ranked undefeated Oregon first but set up a possible rematch against Ohio State, the team that came closest to beating the Ducks this year.

It treated underdog Boise State like a favorite and banged-up Georgia like a world beater at No. 2.

It gave Ohio State home-field advantage against Tennessee for reasons it would take a supercomputer to figure out.

It gave the sport the multiweek tournament it has longed for, but also ensured there will be plenty to grouch about between now and when the trophy is handed out on Jan. 20 after what will easily be the longest college football season in history.

All of it, thankfully, will be sorted out on the field starting with first-round games on campuses Dec. 20 and 21, then over three succeeding rounds that will wind their way through traditional bowl sites.

Maybe Oregon coach Dan Lanning, whose undefeated Ducks are the favorite to win it all, put it best when he offered: "Winning a national championship is not supposed to be easy."

Neither, it turns out, is figuring out who should play for it.

ALABAMA COMES UP SHORT IN THE BRACKET'S BIGGEST DEBATE

The Big Ten will lead the way with four teams in the tournament, followed by the SEC with three and the ACC with two. The lasting memory from the inaugural bracket will involve the decision that handed the ACC that second bid.

Alabama of the SEC didn't play Saturday. SMU of the ACC did. The Mustangs fell behind by three touchdowns to Clemson

before coming back to tie. But they ultimately lost 34-31 on a 56-yard field goal as time expired.

"We were on pins and needles," SMU coach Rhett Lashley said. "Until we saw the name 'SMU' up there, we were hanging on the edge. We're really, really happy and thankful to the committee for rewarding our guys for their total body of work."

The Mustangs only had two losses, compared to three for the Crimson Tide. Even though SMU's schedule wasn't nearly as tough, the committee was impressed by the way the Mustangs came back against Clemson.

"We just felt, in this particular case, SMU had the nod above Alabama," said Michigan athletic director Warde Manuel, the chairman of the selection committee. "But it's no disrespect to Alabama's strength of schedule. We looked at the entire body of work for both teams."

CRIMSON TIDE AD GRACIOUS, BUT LOOKING FOR ANSWERS

Alabama athletic director Greg Byrne was gracious, up to a point.

"Disappointed with the outcome and felt we were one of the 12 best teams in the country," he said on social media.

Even though all of Alabama's losses came against conference opponents this season, Byrne said "we will need to asses how many (Power Four) non-conference games make sense in the future to put us in the best position to participate in the CFP. That is not good for college football."

GEORGIA, BOISE STATE AND OREGON STATE JOIN OREGON WITH FIRST-ROUND BYES

Georgia, the SEC champion, was seeded second; Boise State, the Mountain West champion, earned the third seed; and Big 12 titlist Arizona State got the fourth seed and the fourth and final first-round bye.

All will play in quarterfinals at bowl games on Dec. 31-Jan. 1.

Clemson stole a bid and the 12th seed with its crazy win over SMU, the result that ultimately cost Alabama a spot in the field. The Tigers moved to No. 16 in the rankings, but got in as the fifth-best

conference winner.

AUTOMATIC BYES AND BIDS MADE THE BRACKET STRANGE

The conference commissioners' idea to give conference champions preferable treatment in this first iteration of the 12-team playoff could be up for reconsideration after this season.

The committee actually ranked Boise State, the Mountain West Champion, at No. 9 and Big 12 champion Arizona State at No. 12, but both get to skip the first round.

Another CFP guideline: There's no reseeding of teams after each round, which means no break for Oregon. The top-seeded Ducks will face the winner of Tennessee-Oio State in the Rose Bowl. Oregon beat Ohio State 32-31 earlier this year in one of the season's best games.

WHAT THE MATCHUPS LOOK LIKE?

No. 12 Clemson at No. 5 Texas, Dec. 21. Clemson is riding high after the SMU upset, while Texas is 0-2 against Georgia and 11-0 vs. everyone else this season. The winner faces ... Arizona State in the Peach Bowl. Huh?

No. 11 SMU at No. 6 Penn State, Dec. 21. The biggest knock against the Mustangs was that they didn't play any big boys with that 60th-ranked strength of schedule. Well, now they get to. The winner faces ... Boise State in the Fiesta Bowl. Yes, SMU vs. Boise was the quarterfinal we all expected.

No. 10 Indiana at No. 7 Notre Dame, Dec. 20. Hoosiers coach Curt Cignetti thought his team deserved a home game. Well, not quite but close. The winner faces ... Georgia in the Sugar Bowl. The Bulldogs got the No. 2 seed despite a throwing-arm injury to QB Carson Beck. But what else was the committee supposed to do?

No. 9 Tennessee at No. 8 Ohio State, Dec. 21. The Buckeyes (losses to Oregon, Michigan) got home field over the Volunteers (losses to Arkansas, Georgia) in a matchup of programs with two of the biggest stadiums in football. The winner faces ... Oregon in the Rose Bowl. Feels like that matchup should come in the semifinals or later.

BY MICHAEL MAROT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — Barry Odom is getting a second chance to put a Power Four program back to prominence.

He can't wait.

Purdue athletic director Mike Bobinski announced Sunday he had hired the 48-year-old Odom to replace Ryan Walters, who was fired last week after compiling a 5-19 record in two seasons in West Lafayette, Indiana.

Odom, who spent most of his coaching career working with defenses, reinvented himself at UNLV with a wide-open offense that produced back-to-back Mountain West Conference runner-up finishes. This year, the Rebels went 10-3 — their best record in 40 years — and finished 14th in the FBS in scoring at 36.2 points per game.

Bobinski found him to be the right fit at the right time at the "Cradle of Quarterbacks" and he'll be introduced to the Boilermakers fans Tuesday morning.

"He is a proven and experienced leader who has brought success to two different football programs and has made an impact on the lives of countless student-athletes and staff throughout his football career," he said.

The question is whether he can continue his success in a much stronger Big Ten, which sent four teams to this year's 12-team College Football Playoff.

Odom went 19-8 in his two seasons with UNLV, losing both title games to Boise State, after going 25-25 in his previous head coaching stint at Missouri from 2016-19. Boise State also is in the playoff field.

Any change is welcome after Purdue struggled to an 1-11 mark, endured the two worst losses in school history and scored just 15.8 points per game —

"Their trust will be rewarded with a football program that will reflect the personality and excellence Purdue is widely known for — character, intensity and a no-excuses winning attitude."

— Barry Odom

the second-lowest average of any Power Four school — in 2024, just two years after playing in the Big Ten championship game.

"Their trust will be rewarded with a football program that will reflect the personality and excellence Purdue is widely known for — character, intensity and a no-excuses winning attitude," Odom said. "I can assure you it will be built to last."

Odom has a lot of work to do in a short period of time.

Nineteen players have already entered the transfer portal including quarterbacks Ryan Browne and Marcos Davila, All-American safety Dillon Thieneman and starting linebackers Yanni Karlaftis and defensive end Will Heldt. All, or some, of those players could still withdraw from the portal and return to Purdue.

And when the early signing period opened Wednesday, Purdue added only six players — a far cry from the nearly two dozen other programs typically add each recruiting season.

Those factors helped expedite the search process.

Bobinski also has promised that Purdue will make a stronger commitment with NIL deals under a new coach, especially with the new revenue-sharing model expected to take

effect next season.

"Our folks didn't necessarily respond warmly to the way NIL evolved in the recent past, but that's going to change," Bobinski said Monday. "You need a coach who understands that and embraces that the new world is going to require a new way of thinking. And you can't dislike the way things have evolved because they have evolved. So you've got to be able to find a way to thrive in that (world)."

Odom has plenty of experience, most of it coming at Missouri, his alma mater.

The former college linebacker served as a graduate assistant for the Tigers in 2003, recruiting coordinator in 2004 and 2005, director of football operations from 2006-08 and safeties coach from 2009-11.

After spending three seasons as defensive coordinator and linebackers coach at Memphis and one more in the same capacity at Missouri in 2015, the Tigers promoted Odom to head coach in 2016. In an odd twist, Walters served as either co-defensive coordinator or defensive coordinator for all four seasons of Odom's tenure at Missouri.

Odom spent the next three seasons as assistant head coach and defensive coordinator at Arkansas before he was hired in 2023 by UNLV.

The Boilermakers believed strongly enough in Odom to give him another shot in a power conference.

"As both a leader and person, coach Odom personifies the qualities our football program and university value," Bobinski said in a statement. "During our interactions with coach Odom, it became clear that he possesses the belief, tenacity and competitive drive necessary to return Purdue football to the standard of excellence we all expect."

COURIER AREA SPORTS SHORTS

BY THE COURIER STAFF

• Southwestern defeated Shawe 59-20 in junior varsity boys basketball Friday in Hanover.

Luke Morrow had 17 points for Southwestern, Kaeden Higgins had 11 and Turner Trapp 10.

Joey Hart led Shawe

with seven points and Leonardo Garcia-Nomato had six.

• Shawe Junior High boys basketball picked up a pair of wins over Crothersville at home on Thursday.

The seventh grade won 49-37. Patrick Kahn had 23

points for the Hilltoppers and Tanner Sims scored 12. Shawe is now 8-3 on the season.

The eighth grade won 55-17. Luke Demaree had 24 points and Taylor Ralston scored 13. The Hilltoppers are now 5-6 on the season.

Kentucky tops Gonzaga 90-89 in OT

SEATTLE — Andrew Carr had 19 points and No. 4 Kentucky erased an 18-point second half deficit to beat No. 7 Gonzaga 90-89 in overtime on Saturday night.

Otega Oweh converted at the rim in the opening minute of overtime to put the Wildcats in front 81-79, their first lead since early in the first half.

Amari Williams added a dunk, and Kentucky held on the rest of the way despite Nolan Hickman's 3-pointer that pulled Gonzaga within a point with 5 seconds to go.

The Wildcats, who started the half down 50-34, tied the game at 79 on Carr's jumper with 49 seconds left in regulation.

Gonzaga's Graham Ike led all scorers with a 28 points and 11 rebounds.

Kentucky's Lamont Butler

didn't play because of an ankle injury.

TAKEAWAYS

Kentucky: The Wildcats rebounded after a loss to Clemson on Tuesday in their first true road game of the season.

Gonzaga: It's a sadly familiar result for the Bulldogs as they lost their third consecutive Battle in Seattle after falling to Alabama in 2021 and UConn in 2023.

KEY MOMENT

Kentucky led by as many as seven in overtime before Gonzaga, which had hit just three 3-pointers in regulation, went on a run of its own with a pair of 3-pointers to cut the deficit to 86-83. On the other end, Carr corralled an offensive rebound and got the second-chance bucket to put Kentucky up three.

KEY STAT

Coming into Saturday, Gonzaga had won 175 consecutive games when it led by double digits at halftime.

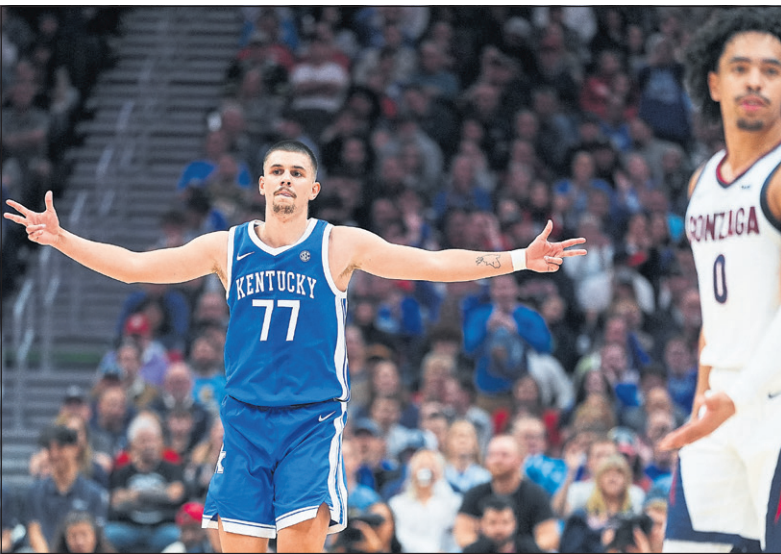
INJURY

Kentucky point guard Kerr Kriisa left the game with a foot injury with 8:41 left in the second half and never returned. Initially thought to be cramps, tests and imaging conducted later showed a broken foot. Kriisa will have surgery later this week and be out indefinitely for the Wildcats.

UP NEXT

Gonzaga heads across the country taking on No. 25 UConn at Madison Square Garden next Saturday.

Kentucky will host Colgate on Wednesday (**TV:** Live on ESPN2 at 8 p.m.).



Lindsey Wasson — staff, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kentucky guard Kerr Kriisa (77) reacts after making a three-point basket against Gonzaga during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game Saturday in Seattle. Kriisa went down with an ankle injury later in the game and will have surgery later this week and be out indefinitely for the Wildcats.

Smith stars as No. 8 Purdue beats Maryland 83-78

WEST LAFAYETTE — Braden Smith had 24 points and 10 assists, and No. 8 Purdue held off Maryland for an 83-78 win on Sunday.

Trey Kaufman-Renn scored 21 points for the Boilermakers (8-2, 1-1 Big Ten), who bounced back after a loss to Penn State on Thursday. Camden Heide added 15 points and Fletcher Loyer finished with 12.

Derik Queen led the Terrapins (8-2, 1-1) with 26 points on 11-of-18 shooting and grabbed a team-high 12 rebounds. Ja'Kobi Gillespie scored 18 points and Selton Miguel and Rodney Rice each had 13. Julian Reese fouled out with five points and seven rebounds.

Purdue used an 8-0 run to

take a 77-67 lead with 2:00 left. Smith sparked the run with a 3-pointer.

Heide made three late foul shots to help close it out.

The Terrapins led 36-31 at halftime. Both teams made 13 of 35 shots in the first half, but the Terrapins had three more 3-pointers

TAKEAWAYS

Maryland: The Terrapins held its own for most of the game in a road battle. Maryland held a 37-34 rebounding advantage, but that narrowed from a 25-16 edge in the opening half.

Purdue: After shooting 37% in the first half, the Boilermakers made 53% of their shots in the second

half. Despite Maryland's size advantage, Purdue had a 42-32 edge in points in the paint.

KEY MOMENT

Kaufman-Renn's layup put Purdue up for good at 63-62 with 7:01 left.

KEY STAT

The Boilermakers went 7 for 16 from 3-point range in the second half after going 2 for 10 from deep in the first half.

UP NEXT

Maryland hosts St. Francis (Pa.) on Dec. 17

Purdue plays No. 22 Texas A&M on Saturday in Indianapolis (**TV:** Live on CBS at noon).

Reneau, Ballo lift IU over Miami (Ohio) before Big Ten play

BLOOMINGTON — Malik Reneau scored 19 points and Oumar Ballo posted his 35th career double-double as Indiana pulled away in the second half to post a 76-57 win over Miami (Ohio) Friday night in the Hoosiers' final tune-up before opening Big Ten Conference play.

Indiana (7-2) won its third straight after dropping back-to-back decisions to Louisville and No. 3 Gonzaga and is 6-0 on its home floor. The Hoosiers host Minnesota in the conference opener Monday.

Luke Skaljac knocked down a 3-pointer at the 10-min-

ute mark to pull the RedHawks within 55-50, but they did not score again until Skaljic hit two free throws with 3:50 left to make it 67-52. Ironically, Indiana also hit a dry spell after scoring its 50th point on a Reneau layup to take a 50-42 lead with 15:11 left. The Hoosiers did not score again until Luke Goode hit two free throws with 11:27 left.

Indiana shot 53.8% from the field for the game (28 of 52) and held a big advantage on the boards, outrebounding the RedHawks 46-29.

Reneau hit 8 of 15

from the field but was 0-3 from beyond the arc. Myles Rice hit 6 of 7 from the floor, including 2 of 3 from long range, to finish with 17 points while Ballo put up 14 points, dished out six assists and pulled down a season-high 18 rebounds for his first double-double of the season. Trey Galloway knocked down 3 of 4 from beyond the arc and added 13 points.

Skaljic finished with 14 points off the bench to lead Miami (5-3). Eian Elmer added 11. The RedHawks shot 30.8% from the floor (20 of 65), but were 11 of 32 from distance.

No. 9 Duke rallies past Louisville 76-65

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Cooper Flagg scored 13 of his 20 points in the second half and No. 9 Duke came back from a 14-point first-half deficit to beat Louisville 76-65 on Sunday night in the Atlantic Coast Conference opener for both teams.

The Blue Devils (9-2, 1-0) trailed 30-16 midway through the first half but

eventually wore down the Cardinals (5-4, 0-1), who lost their third straight.

Flagg led Duke with 12 rebounds. Tyrese Proctor scored 13 for the Blue Devils and Kon Knueppel had 12.

Terrence Edwards Jr. led Louisville with 21 points. Keyne Smith pitched in 13, and Khani Rooths finished with 10.

TAKEAWAYS

Duke: Duke took Louisville's best punch early, and coming off an emotional win against No. 2 Auburn on Wednesday, it could have gotten ugly. However, the Blue Devils whittled their way back from down 14 in the first half to score an impressive road victory.

Louisville: Coach Pat Kelsey preached all season

that the Cardinals were better perimeter shooters than their stats showed. They started well and kept Duke on the ropes for most of the game, but the Cardinals' short bench due to injuries led to Louisville running out of gas.

KEY MOMENT

Flagg drew his fourth foul with 10:36 left in regu-

lation, and Louisville's lead was down to 53-50. Despite his absence, the Blue Devils went on a 13-2 run to take the lead for the first time since the first minute of the game. By the time he returned nearly six minutes later, Duke led 68-60.

KEY STAT

Louisville hit seven of

its first nine 3-pointers to build the 30-16 lead. However, the Cardinals finished making just 11 of 31 3s overall.

UP NEXT

Duke returns home to play Incarnate Word on Tuesday night.

Louisville hosts UTEP on Wednesday (**TV:** Live on ACCN+ at 7 p.m.).

Tennessee leads AP rankings; Iowa State reaches historic No. 3 spot

BY JOHN MARSHALL
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Tennessee is the new No. 1 in men's college basketball after a massive shakeup in the AP Top 25.

The Vols received 58 first-place votes from a 62-person media panel Monday to reach No. 1 for the first time since the 2018-19 season. Tennessee climbed two spots from last week after Kansas lost twice and Auburn fell to No. 4 Duke. The Tigers remained No. 2 and received three first-place votes.

No. 3 Iowa State had one first-place vote and climbed three places from last week for its highest ranking since 1956-57. Kentucky rounded out the top five.

In all, 14 ranked teams lost last week, including six teams in the top 10; Kansas and then-No. 11 Wisconsin lost twice. Only two teams — Auburn and No. 12 Oregon — remained in the same poll spots they were a week ago and the volatility saw five teams jump into the rankings.

Tennessee (8-0) is off to its best start since opening the 2000-01 season 9-0 and is No. 1 in the NET rankings. The Vols also are second in the KenPom ratings, ranking second in defensive efficiency and ninth in offensive efficiency despite losing four starters from last year's SEC championship team. Tennessee beat Syracuse 96-70 in its



Wade Payne | Associated Press

Tennessee head coach Rick Barnes talks with Zakai Zeigler during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game against Syracuse, Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2024, in Knoxville, Tenn.

only game last week.

Kansas had been No. 1 since the preseason poll before losing to 76-63 to Creighton and 76-67 to rival Missouri. The losses dropped the Jayhawks to No. 10.

Auburn was poised to move into the No. 1 spot for the first time since 2021-22, but lost 84-78 at Duke before beating Richmond.

Iowa State had its highest preseason ranking at No. 5 after reaching the NCAA Tournament's

up impressive wins over Baylor and Texas to move up seven spots in this week's poll to No. 18.

"Maybe the people with the shovels and the dirt, maybe they were too quick to grab the shovel and throw the dirt on us," UConn coach Dan Hurley said.

RISING AND FALLING

Oklahoma had the biggest jump within this week's poll, climbing eight spots to No. 13 after beating Georgia Tech and Alcorn State. Duke and No. 17 Texas A&M each moved up five spots.

Kansas had the biggest drop, followed by No. 20 Wisconsin, which fell nine spots. No. 22 Cincinnati dropped eight places.

IN AND OUT

Multiple teams moved in and out of this week's poll.

No. 14 Michigan is ranked for the first time in nearly three years after tight wins over Wisconsin and Iowa. The Wolverines have won seven straight under first-year coach Dusty May.

No. 16 Clemson is

ranked for the first time this season following wins over Kentucky and Miami. No. 21 Michigan State also is ranked for the first time after wins over Nebraska and Minnesota.

No. 24 UCLA is ranked for the first time in nearly two years following wins over Washington and Oregon. No. 25 Mississippi State is back in the poll after blowing out Pittsburgh 90-57 and beating Prairie View A&M.

Baylor, Memphis, Pittsburgh, Illinois and North Carolina all dropped out of the rankings.

CONFERENCE WATCH

The SEC led all conferences with nine ranked teams, followed by the Big Ten with six and the Big 12 with four. The Atlantic Coast Conference and Big East each had two ranked teams, while the West Coast and Mountain West conferences each had one.



LEGAL NOTICE

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of Superior Court of Jefferson County, Indiana, in Cause No. 39D01-2407-MF-000667 wherein First Financial Bank was Plaintiff and Rodney Cole Webster was Defendant, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the 23rd day of January, 2025, at the hour of 10:00am local time or as soon thereafter as is possible, at the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, 1150 JA Berry Lane, Madison, Indiana 47250, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Jefferson County, Indiana.

Lot No. Forty-one (41) in Kreeger & Hensier Subdivision No. 6, in the Town of Hanover, Jefferson County, Indiana, as recorded May 13, 1970, in Plat Book 2, Page 69, in the Office of the Recorder of Jefferson County, Indiana.
Parcel ID No. 39-14-12-223-007.000-003
More commonly known as 211 N. Sycamore Drive, Hanover, Indiana 47243

Together with rents, issues, income, and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisement laws.

"Subject to all liens, encumbrances and easements of record not otherwise extinguished in the proceedings known as Cause 39D01-2407-MF-000667 in the Superior Court of the County of Jefferson, Indiana."

Taylor M. Hamilton No. 30338-10 Morgan Pottinger McGarvey 401 South Fourth Street, Suite 1200 Louisville, Kentucky 40202 Attorneys for Plaintiff

Ben Flint Sheriff of Jefferson County, Indiana

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Paul now 2nd on NBA's career assists list

SAN ANTONIO — San Antonio Spurs point guard Chris Paul moved to second on the NBA's all-time assists list against the New Orleans Pelicans, the franchise where his 20-year career began, on Sunday.

The 39-year-old Paul collected his 12,092nd assist on a 3-pointer from Victor Wembanyama with 7:06 remaining in the first half.

Paul surpassed former Phoenix and Dallas star Jason Kidd on the all-time list. John Stockton is the league's career leader with 15,806 career assists over 19 seasons, all with the Utah Jazz.

After failing to collect an assist in the opening quarter against New Orleans, Paul had three assists in the first five minutes of the second quarter to achieve the milestone.

"Yeah, it is wild," Paul said

after Friday's loss to Sacramento. "I mean, five years ago I had seen that number and it's like, 'Man, you going to play long enough to do that?'" Seriously. I

mean, I remember being a

SEE **PAUL/PAGE B6**

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JEFFERSON COUNTY, INDI-
ANA IN THE MATTER OF
THE ESTATE OF NORMAN
LEE CARLISLE, DECEASED.
Notice is hereby given that
Toni Martin was, on the 22nd
day of November, 2024, ap-
pointed personal representa-
tive of the estate of Norman
Lee Carlisle, deceased, who
died on the 30th day of Octo-
ber, 2024.
All persons who have claims
against this estate, whether or
not now due, must file the
claim in the office of the Clerk
of this Court within three (3)
months from the date of the
first publication of this notice,
or within nine (9) months after
the decedent's death,
whichever is earlier, or the
claims will be forever barred.
Dated at Madison, Indiana,
this 22nd day of November,
2024**

/s/ Tabatha Eblen
Clerk of the Circuit Court
of Jefferson County, IN
SEAL
hspaxlp

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Friday**

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*Holidays advance deadlines by 24 hours.



LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF INDIANA
SS:
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF JEFFERSON COUNTY
ESTATE DOCKET 39C01-24
11-EU-000078

IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED
ESTATE OF NORMAN LEE CARLISLE, DECEASED.

William Joseph Jenner, JENNER, PATTISON & SHARPE,
508 E. Main Street, Madison, IN 47250; (812) 265-5132

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, INDIANA
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF NORMAN LEE CARLISLE, DECEASED.

Notice is hereby given that Toni Martin was, on the 22nd day of November, 2024, appointed personal representative of the estate of Norman Lee Carlisle, deceased, who died on the 30th day of October, 2024.

All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated at Madison, Indiana, this 22nd day of November, 2024.

/s/ Tabatha Eblen

Clerk of the Circuit Court of Jefferson County, IN
(seal) hspaxlp



LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF INDIANA)

IN THE JEFFERSON CIRCUIT COURT

) SS:

COUNTY OF JEFFERSON) ESTATE NUMBER
39C01-2411-EU-000075
IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE)

OF DON MICHAEL KONKLE, DECEASED.

DEVON M. SHARPE, Jenner, Pattison & Sharpe,
307 Jefferson Street, Madison, IN 47250; (812) 265-5132

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, INDIANA
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DON MICHAEL KONKLE, DECEASED.

Notice is hereby given that Bradley Konkle was, on the 20th day of November, 2024, appointed personal representative of the estate of Don Michael Konkle, deceased, who died on the 14th day of September, 2024.

All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated at Madison, Indiana, this 20th day of November, 2024.

/s/ Tabatha Eblen

Clerk of the Circuit Court
of Jefferson County, IN
hspaxlp

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Downtown Cottage in Madison 700 sq feet, Very Nice 1 BR, Off Street Parking Single Occupancy Only No Smoking Service dog only. \$800/ mo. Call: 812-265-5951

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Allen’s record day falls short to snap Bills’ win streak

BY JOE REEDY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

INGLEWOOD, Calif. — On a day when Josh Allen became the first player to have three touchdown passes and three rushing TDs in the same game, it was a play during which Buffalo’s quarterback didn’t reach the end zone that was the most discussed after the Bills’ 44-42 loss to the Los Angeles Rams.

Trailing by nine late in the fourth quarter Sunday, Allen was stopped for no gain on a sneak up the middle on first-and-goal from the Rams 1-yard line. Buffalo then use the first of its three timeouts with 1:02 remaining.

“I have to find a way to get in,” said Allen, who passed for 324 yards and rushed for 82. “I don’t know the stats, but I know it wasn’t good enough to win the game.”

After being stuffed, Allen went off left guard on second down for his ninth rushing score of the season to get the Bills within two points. But with a minute left, Buffalo was forced to attempt an onside kick.

The Rams’ Ronnie Rivers recovered Tyler Bass’ kick at the Bills 45, allowing Los Angeles to run out the clock and end Buffalo’s seven-game winning streak.

Instead of still being within striking distance of Kansas City for the top spot in the AFC, the Bills are 10-3 and tied with Pittsburgh for the second seed.

Allen and the Bills have been successful on short-yardage sneaks this season. It was only the third time in 19 rushing attempts he was stopped with a to-go distance of at least 1 yard. Two of those stops have occurred on the opponents’ 1-yard line.

The Bills quarterback is 20 of 27 on sneaks from the 1 during his seven-year career and four of six this season.

Bills coach Sean McDermott, who didn’t appear for his postgame news conference until 67 minutes after the game was over, defended the play call and then taking the timeout.

McDermott also noted that 15 to 20 more seconds would have come off the clock if they would’ve tried to spike the ball instead of taking the timeout.

Soto agrees to record \$765M, 15-year deal with Mets

BY RONALD BLUM
AP BASEBALL WRITER

DALLAS — Star outfielder Juan Soto and the New York Mets agreed Sunday to a record \$765 million, 15-year contract, a person familiar with the deal told The Associated Press, a deal that could escalate to \$805 million and is believed to be the largest pact in team sports history.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the agreement, first reported by the New York Post, was subject to a successful physical.

While there are no definitive records in sports beyond the United States, Soto’s deal is thought to eclipse those in all other team sports. The deal, spurning the New York Yankees’ attempt to retain the star who helped them reach the World Series, was reached on the eve of the first full day of baseball’s annual winter meetings.

He would have the right to opt out of the contract after the 2029 season if the Mets don’t at that time increase the average annual value by \$4 million annually. Soto will get a \$75 million signing bonus, payable upon the deal’s approval by the commissioner’s office.

Soto’s agreement is the largest and longest in Major League Baseball history, topping Shohei Ohtani’s \$700 million, 10-year contract with the Los Angeles Dodgers, a deal signed last December. That agreement included \$680 million in deferred payments and is valued at just under \$46.1 million annually for baseball’s luxury tax.

Soto’s agreement does not include deferred money, the person said, leaving its average annual value at \$51 million. Its

length tops Fernando Tatis Jr.’s \$340 million, 14-year contract with San Diego that runs through 2034.

The Yankees’ final offer to Soto was for \$760 million over 16 years, a second person familiar with the talks said, also on condition of anonymity because that detail was not announced. That offer had a \$47.5 million average annual value.

A four-time All-Star at age 26, Soto is the most accomplished free agent at that age since shortstop Alex Rodriguez agreed to a record \$252 million, 10-year contract with Texas in December 2000 at age 25.

Soto was 19 when he made his major league debut with Washington in 2018 and helped the Nationals win the World Series the following year, when he hit .282 with 34 homers and 110 RBIs.

He turned down Washington’s \$440 million, 15-year offer in 2022 and was traded that August to San Diego. Following the death of Padres owner Peter Seidler, Soto was dealt to the Yankees in December 2023 and helped New York reach the World Series for the first time since 2009.

Soto batted .288 with 41 homers, 109 RBIs and 129 walks, hitting second in the batting order ahead of Aaron Judge to power an offense that led the major leagues with 237 homers. He hit a go-ahead homer in the AL Championship Series opener against Cleveland and a tiebreaking, three-run homer in the 10th inning that won the pennant against the Guardians in Game 5.

Soto has a .285 batting average with 201 homers, 592 RBIs and 769 walks over seven major league seasons.

selected with the fourth pick in 2005 NBA Draft. He was traded to the Los Angeles Clippers, where he spent six seasons before moving on to Houston, Oklahoma City, Phoenix and Golden State before signing with San Antonio in the offseason.

After primarily coming off the bench with the Warriors last season, Paul is averaging 10.4 points, 8.5 assists and 3.9 rebounds this season as a starter for the Spurs.

“You have two options and neither are great,” he said. “When you’re in that situation with three timeouts, we were underneath the time where we could get the ball with a legit chance to win with no timeouts. We ran what we thought was our best play all year.

“I thought we could get it on the first play. If we did get the onside kick, we had 15 yards and roughly 50 seconds and felt good about ourselves.”

Recovering an onside kick, instead of having all three timeouts and trying to stop the Rams on three plays, has ended up having a lower rate of success. With teams having to declare an onside kick and rules preventing the kicking team from over-

loading players on one side, there have been only three instances out of 41 this season where a team has recovered an onside kick.

The Bills reached the end zone on their final four possessions, but Allen said not scoring near the end of the first half and then going three-and-out on their first drive of the second half loomed large.

“We have to find ways to score before and after the half. We didn’t do our part,” said Allen, who completed 22 of 37 passes. “I have to make one more play than they do. It was a total team loss in three phases. We didn’t play up to our standards.”

Allen had all but one of his rushing yards in the second half as the Bills

nearly rallied from a 38-21 deficit late in the third quarter. He joined Kordell Stewart as the only players in NFL history with at least three TD passes and two rushing scores in multiple career games.

It also was Allen’s fifth game with at least two rushing and passing scores, surpassing Pro Football Hall of Famer Steve Young for the most in NFL history.

“I mean, he’s a nightmare to defend, and so it’s a balance. I don’t think you can just sit back and let him navigate the pocket,” Rams coach Sean McVay said. “He can beat you from the pocket, he can beat you with his mind, he can beat you with his arm, he can beat you with his legs. That’s why he’s a

legitimate MVP candidate.

“He’s one of the best players in this league, but we were searching for some different answers.”

Buffalo forced the Rams to punt only twice in nine possessions and also had a breakdown on special teams when Sam Martin’s punt in the second quarter was blocked by Jacob Hummel. Hunter Long scooped up the loose ball and went 22 yards to extend Los Angeles’ lead to 17-7.

McDermott said Allen had an “incredible” game but that “we have to do a better job around him,” especially with a road game at 12-1 Detroit next week.

“We have our work cut out for us this week,” he said.

		Jefferson Switzerland	Trimble/ Carroll	TUESDAY EVENING											
				6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10	10:30	11	
3	WAVE	6	2	WAV..	NBCN..	WAV..	News	The Voice (N)		The Voice (N)			WAV..		
4	WTTV	4		CBS4..	CBSN..	TBA		FBI (N)		FBI: Int (N)		FBI-Wanted (N)		CBS4..	
5	WLWT	2		News	NBCN..	WLWT	Hollyw..	The Voice (N)		The Voice (N)			News		
8	WISH	12		News (N)		Inside..	ET (N)	WWE NXT (N)		(Live)		News (N)		News	
9	WCPO	23		News	World..	News	Extra	Movie	ToySto..	Landing Prep &		High Pote (N)		News	
11	WHAS	11	4	News	World..	ET (N)	Inside..	Movie	ToySto..	Landing Prep &		High Pote (N)		News	
15	WKPC	13		Ameri..	Edition	PBS News (N)		Roots		Experience		Frontline (N)		BBCN..	
19	WXIX	10		FOX19	FOX19	Wheel	Jeopar..	LEGO Masters (N)			FOX19 (N)		FOX19		
32	WLKY	5	5	News	CBSN..	Wheel	Jeopar..	FBI (N)		FBI: Int (N)		FBI-Wanted (N)		News	
34	WBKI	7	7	Neighb..	Conners	Sheldon	BigBa..	WWE NXT (N)		(Live)			BigBa.. Sheldon		LastM..
41	WDRB	8	9	News	News	FamFe..	FamFe..	LEGO Masters (N)			News (N) (Live)			News	
A&E		28	36	Road..	Road..	Road..	Road..	Road..	Road..	Road..	Road..	Ro. Ragers (N)		Road..	
AMC		29	26	Four Christmases ('08)				Elf ('03) Will Ferrell.				Christmas With the K...			
COM		45	59	Family..	Family..	Family..	Family..	Family..	Family..	Family..	Family..	Family..	Family..	DailyS..	
DISC		31	38	Moonshiners		Moonshiners		Moonshine (N)		Game (N)		Master Distiller		Distiller	
DISN		25	29	Bluey	Bluey	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Hamst..	Hamst..	Raven	
ESPN		32	44	SportC..	Basketball Miami vs. Tennessee			Game..	Basketball Michigan vs. Arkansas			Sports..			
FREE		18	40	Movie	Dr. Seuss' The Grinch ('18)				Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas			700Club			
FX		40	28	(5:30) Deadpool 2 ('18)				Free Guy ('21) Ryan Reynolds.				Bad Boys for ...			
HBO		201	17	(20) Get Millie		(10) Cop Out ('10)				Hard (N)		Nature of the Crime			
MAX		270	73	(55) Shakespeare in Love				Garden State ('04)			(45) Person to Person		Movie		
NEWSNTN		20	20	The Hill (N)		On Balance (N)		Cuomo (N)		Dan Abrams		Banfield (N)		Cuomo	
PARMT		35	41	TwoM..	TwoM..	TwoM..	TwoM..	Bad Santa ('03)				(05) Bad Santa 2			
PARSHO		221	16	Movie	(45) Mission: Impossible			Ghost Protocol		Mission: Impossible ('96)			Agency		
TMC		233	74	(15) Afternoon ('22)				The Gift ('15)				Eyes Wide Shut			
TNT		27	43	(4:30) Godzilla ...		NBA Basketball					NBA Basketball				
USA		26	33	Law-SVU		Law-SVU		Law-SVU		Law-SVU		Law-SVU		Sold o..	

			WEDNESDAY EVENING										
	Jefferson Switzerland	Trimble/ Carroll	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10	10:30	11
3 WAVE	6	2	WAV..	NBCN..	WAV..	News	Frosty	Shrek	A Motown Christmas (N)				WAV..
4 WTTV	4		CBS4..	CBSN..	BigBa..	Sheldon	Survivor (N)				FBI		CBS4..
5 WLWT	2		News	NBCN..	WLWT	Hollyw..	Frosty	Shrek	A Motown Christmas (N)				News
8 WISH	12		News (N)		Inside..	ET (N)	Sullivan's (SF)		Inside the NFL		News (N)		News
9 WCPO	23		News	World..	News	Extra	Celebrity Wheel		Celebrity Fam		Celebrity Fam		News
11 WHAS	11	4	News	World..	ET (N)	Inside..	Celebrity Wheel		Celebrity Fam		Celebrity Fam		News
15 WKPC	13		Ameri..	Edition	PBS News (N)		Nature		NOVA		Secrets		BBCN..
19 WXIX	10		FOX19	FOX19	Wheel	Jeopar..	Masked (N)		The Floor (N)		FOX19 (N)		FOX19
32 WLKY	5	5	News	CBSN..	Wheel	Jeopar..	Survivor (N)				FBI		News
34 WBKI	7	7	Neighb..	Conners	Sheldon	BigBa..	Sullivan's (SF)		Inside the NFL		BigBa..	Sheldon	LastM..
41 WDRB	8	9	News	News	FamFe..	FamFe..	Masked (N)		The Floor (N)		News (N) (Live)		News
A&E	28	36	Court..	Court..	Court..	Court..	Court Cam (N)				Fugitiv..	Fugitiv..	Court..
AMC	29	26	*** Elf ('03) Will Ferrell.				*** Christmas With the Kranks				*** Trading Places		
COM	45	59	Family..	Family..	Family..	Family..	Family..	Family..	Family..	Family..	Family..	Family..	DailyS..
DISC	31	38	Expedition		Expedition		Expedition		Expedition (N)		Mystery (N)		Myster..
DISN	25	29	Bluey	* Big City Greens the M...		Funday		Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Hamst..	Hamst.. Raven
ESPN	32	44	SportC..	TBA	NBA Basketball					(35) Bowl Mania (N)		SportC..	
FREE	18	40	*** Home Alone ('90) Macaulay Culkin.						(25) * Home Alone 2: Lost in New York		700Club		
FX	40	28	Movie	*** Free Guy ('21) Ryan Reynolds.				* The Waterboy ('98)				Funday	
HBO	201	17	(5:50) Dune		(55) Dune		* Rise of the Planet of th...			(50) *** Jupiter Ascending ('15)			
MAX	270	73	(10) *** Wanted ('08)				*** Sinister ('12)			* Hobo With a Shotgun		Movie	
NEWSNTN	20	20	The Hill (N)		On Balance (N)		Cuomo (N)		Dan Abrams		Banfield (N)		Cuomo
PARMT	35	41	TwoM..	TwoM..	TwoM..	TwoM..	*** Major League ('89) Tom Berenger.						* Tommy Boy
PARSHO	221	16	(5:45) *** Ghost ('90)				***** Her ('13)				(10) *** The Matrix		
TMC	233	74	(5:45) *** Mud ('13)				*** The Lovely Bones ('09)				(15) * Winter's Bone (P)		
TNT	27	43	Road,..	NHL o..	NHL Hockey				Post-G..			NBA Basketball	
USA	26	33	Law-SVU		Law-SVU		Law-SVU		Law-SVU		Law-SVU		Law-S..

	Jefferson	Switzerland	THURSDAY EVENING										
	Trimble/	Carroll	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10	10:30	11
3 WAVE	6	2	WAV..	NBCN..	WAV..	News	Rudolph		(15) NBC's (N)		Law-SVU		WAV..
4 WTTV	4		CBS4..	CBSN..	BigBa..	Sheldon	Georgie	Ghosts	Matlock (N)		Elsbeth (N)		CBS4..
5 WLWT	2		News	NBCN..	WLWT	Hollyw..	Rudolph		(15) NBC's (N)		Law-SVU		News
8 WISH	12		News (N)		ZoneE..	ET (N)	Scrabble (N)		Trivial (N)		News (N)		News
9 WCPO	23		News	World..	News	Extra	Light Fight (N)				Press-Luck		News
11 WHAS	11	4	News	World..	ET (N)	Inside..	Light Fight (N)				Press-Luck		News
15 WKPC	13		Ameri..	Edition	PBS News (N)		Antiques		Doc Martin		Father (N)		BBCN..
19 WXIX	10		FOX19	FOX19	Wheel	Jeopar..	Billboard Music (N)	(Live)			FOX19 (N)		FOX19
32 WLKY	5	5	News	CBSN..	Wheel	Jeopar..	Georgie	Ghosts	Matlock (N)		Elsbeth (N)		News
34 WBKI	7	7	Neighb..	Conners	Sheldon	BigBa..	Scrabble (N)		Trivial (N)		BigBa..	Sheldon	LastM..
41 WDRB	8	9	News	News	FamFe..	FamFe..	Billboard Music (N)	(Live)			News (N)	(Live)	News
A&E	28	36	The First 48		The First 48		The First (N)		Alaska PD (N)		Raw (N)		First48
AMC	29	26	(5:30) ♣★★★★ Trading Places ('83)				♣ National Lampoon's Christmas ...				♣ National Lampoon's C...		
COM	45	59	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	DailyS..
DISC	31	38	Homestead "Rubble With a Cause"				Homestead "Black Hills Hope"				Homestead Rescue		
DISN	25	29	Bluey	Bluey	Big City	Big City	ZOM..	ZOM..	Primos	Primos	Kiff	Kiff	Jessie
ESPN	32	44	SportsCenter		Women's College Basketball				College Football (N)		(N) (Live)		SportC..
FREE	18	40	Movie	♣★★★★ The Santa Clause ('94)				(35) ♣★★ The Santa Clause 2 ('02)		700Club			
FX	40	28	(3:30) ♣ Eternals		♣★★★★ Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings						♣ Doctor Strange in the ...		
HBO	201	17	(10) ♣★★ Trap ('24) Josh Hartnett.				♣★★★★ Cedar Rapids			♣★★ Suicide Squad ('16)			
MAX	270	73	Movie		♣ White Bird in a Blizzard		♣★★ Terminator Salvation ('09)			(55) ♣★★ Sleepless ('17)			
NEWSNTN	20	20	The Hill (N)		On Balance (N)		Cuomo (N)		Dan Abrams		Banfield (N)		Cuomo
PARMT	35	41	(5:50) Y..	(50) Yellowstone	(55) Yellowstone				Yellowstone		(05) Yellowstone Yellow..		
PARSHO	221	16	(05) ♣★★★★ Saving Private Ryan ('98) Tom Hanks.				The Agency			♣ Born on the Fourth of ...			
TMC	233	74	(15) ♣★★ Chloe ('09)				♣★★ Enough ('02) Jennifer Lopez.			♣★★★★ Out of Sight ('98)			
TNT	27	43	(5:00) ♣★★★★ Shazam!			♣★★ Black Adam ('22) Dwayne Johnson.			♣★★ Justice League ('17)				
USA	26	33	Law-SVU		Law-SVU		Law-SVU		Law-SVU		♣★★ London Has Fallen		

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle

by Stella Zawistowski

ACROSS

1 Time spent in a tub

5 "We ___ Overcome"

10 Smartphone programs

14 Brand's emblem

15 A minor prophet

16 "Old King ___ was a merry old soul"

17 Princeton or Penn State

19 Family diagram

20 NFL officials

21 Shriek

23 Cleanses (of)

24 Takes a nap

25 "___ Blind Mice"

28 Talks to God

31 Cobra's feature

32 Social group

33 Buy and ___

37 Fitting

38 Dimes and nickels

39 Actress Zadora

40 Where eggs hatch

42 Immitates

43 Julep herb

44 Added to the staff

46 Whiskey on the ___

47 Winter neckwear

50 Go across

52 Truthful

54 Family history

58 "M*A*S*H" actor Alan

59 In the beginning

61 Part of a tooth

62 Lively Baroque dance

63 Adhesive goo

64 Makes a mistake

65 ___ and aahed

66 Consumes

DOWN

1 Make indistinct

2 Top-rated

3 End-of-workweek exclamation: Abbr.

4 Hung in the air

5 Rip to pieces

6 Vacuum attachments

7 With no modifications: 2 wds.

8 Allow

9 Potato chip brand

10 Michelle Pfeiffer or Michelle Yeoh

11 Skin openings

12 Skirt fold

13 Comes across as

18 Cleveland's lake

22 Weep

25 "It's better ___ nothing"

26 Aspire

27 Goes bad

28 Engaged in a trade

29 Does a 5K

30 Crunch muscles

32 Make do

34 Big-budget movie

35 Part of a chain

36 Pulldown muscles

38 Camry or Civic

41 Intimidating statements

43 Composite film sequence

12/10/24

Created by Stella Zawistowski

Today's Puzzle Solved

S I J V E D E H O O S R R E

E N T G E N G I G J O O R

A T T V N I G I R O V D T V

E G V J I R E H L S E N O H

N V P S F R V C S

S K O R D E R I H

L N I W S E d V L S E N

V I d S N I O C L d V

L T E S B N L C D O O H

S A V R P E E R H T

S J S E R S D I R

W V E R C S S E E R E F E R

E E R L A L I S R E A I N N

E T O C V E S O H O G O T

S d d V L T V H S H L V B

45 No ___, ands, or but

46 Wet weather

47 Unit of stock

48 Hue

49 "Star Wars" spinoff show

50 Smooth transition

51 Used a crowbar

53 Like takeout orders: 2 wds.

54 Lofty

55 Penne ___ vodka

56 Oversupply

57 Looks over

60 2016 Olympics city, for short

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle

by Stella Zawistowski

ACROSS

1 Impertinence

5 Facet

11 "Sure thing!"

14 Johnson of "Laugh-In"

15 ___ del Fuego

16 Spanish cheer

17 Side with a burger: 2 wds.

19 Avail oneself of

20 Stuff oneself: 3 wds.

21 Provided food for

23 Orderly procedure

24 "Chopped" host Allen

25 Mined rock

26 Justice Dept. agency: Abbr.

28 Barbie, e.g.

32 Grimly harsh

35 Italian "goodbye"

36 By way of

37 Corn servings

38 Language of old Rome

39 Encounter

40 Gorilla or bonobo

41 Dastardly

42 Handbag

43 Enjoy a magazine

45 Five times two

46 Revolutionary Guevara

47 Intersection: Abbr.

49 Taking more time

53 Froze, as a computer

57 Soothe

58 On the ___ (fleeing)

59 Hunting dog breed: 2 wds.

61 "___ you kidding?"

62 Renter

63 Italian volcano

64 Bear's home

65 Driver's license, e.g.: 2 wds.

66 Singer Chappell

DOWN

1 Storage vaults

2 Assortment

3 Undoes a deletion

4 Capitol Hill politicians

5 In one's house: 2 wds.

6 Refine flour

7 According to

8 "The Little Mermaid" prince

9 Genesis event

10 Have a sip of

11 "In ___ face!"

12 Otherwise

13 Sesame-___ bun

18 Store worker

22 Actor Byrnes

26 Belong: 2 wds.

27 Scoop out water

29 Finished

30 Untruths

31 Not on time

32 Cook in a hot pan

33 Adhesive strip

34 Locality

35 Stone Age dwelling

38 Did calligraphy

39 Mild cheese type

42 Call up

44 Radio pros: Abbr.

46 Shut

48 Cook-off dish

50 Reached: 2 wds.

51 Kagan of SCOTUS

52 Showed again

53 All-___ (cookware brand)

54 Very uncommon

55 "So be it"

56 The D in CD

57 "Dark Lady" singer

60 Federal entitlement agency: Abbr.

12/11/24

Created by Stella Zawistowski

Today's Puzzle Solved

N V O R D R V C D I N E D

V N L E E S S E T E R V

R E L E S H S I R I W V L

E T O S N O C D E H S V R C

R E G N O T L C r V C S

E H C N E L D V E R

E S R N d T I A E S d V

L E E W N I L V T S R V E

V I A O V I C K R V T S

L T O D I B F E R O

D E L W E L S A S

D E R E T V C T O T V L V E

E S N S E I R F H C N E R F

E T O V R R E I L E T R V

S E A T C E P A S S V S

44 Radio pros: Abbr.

46 Shut

48 Cook-off dish

50 Reached: 2 wds.

51 Kagan of SCOTUS

52 Showed again

53 All-___ (cookware brand)

54 Very uncommon

55 "So be it"

56 The D in CD

57 "Dark Lady" singer

60 Federal entitlement agency: Abbr.

Sister-in-law didn't include other family in holiday event

Dear Eric: My family and I will be traveling from California to the UK to visit my husband's parents with our two kids. During our visit, my husband's brother, his partner and their young daughter will be joining us from Sweden for part of the stay. We recently found out that my husband's brother's partner booked tickets for an event with Santa at a nearby stately home. It's an event scheduled for when we'll all be there together, but she didn't extend the invitation to us and our children. To make things harder, I had wanted to attend this event even before learning they would be going, but by the time I went to book, tickets were sold out. Now, my kids and I won't be able to attend, and my feelings are really hurt. I don't want to create tension within the family, but I'm struggling with how to approach this or even if I should. She has been difficult before and has not ever seemed to engage closely with us as family even though she has been with my husband's brother for almost 20 years. She is friendly but often makes her

R. ERIC THOMAS
ASKING ERIC

own plans without considering others. I send gifts to the daughter and photos of our boys, but it is always the brother who seems to be engaging with us as a family. Thank you for any insights you can provide. — Unhappy Holiday Dear Holiday: You want to have a special holiday time, and you want to be thought of, both of which are reasonable. While it hurts to not be thought of, you can still create a special holiday moment. Presuming you haven't hyped your kids up about the sold-out Santa, you can plan a trip to see (if you're a child reading this, avert your eyes) another Santa in another home or tearoom or store. Much of the tension here seems to be coming from a pattern of behavior rather than this one incident. You feel that she's too self-involved. If you weren't already stewing on this, the Santa event might not have made such an impact. Because you live in different countries and, as you stated, she's friendly and the families aren't at odds, I think you'll be happier just accepting this part of her personality. Modifying your expectations might even help you to see some traits in her that you quite enjoy.

Married widows unsure about burial plans

Dear Eric: My wife and I married two years ago. We were both widowed after long, happy marriages and feel blessed that we have found each other. When our first spouses died, they were each interred in different local cemeteries. In each case, the headstones include each surviving spouse's name, birth year and, of course, no death year (yet!). So, when my wife and I die, we would be interred with our first spouses, with no reference to second spouses. And yet, to take our names off of the current headstones (actually bronze plaques, so it is possible to do) and be interred together somewhere else doesn't seem right either. How can we recognize our current and former spouses in our final resting places? I just want my second happy marriage recognized, as well as my first happy marriage. — Thinking Ahead

R. ERIC THOMAS
ASKING ERIC

Dear Thinking: It's a gift to those who will survive you that you're thinking through this now. Perhaps the easiest option is for you and your wife to redesign the plaques to list both spouses. So, the headstone where you'll be interred would list both of your marriages, as would the headstone where your wife will be interred, should you choose not to be interred together. Even if you do choose to be interred together somewhere else, this is an option available for the headstones of your first spouses. Now, some might quibble that you can't be in two places so why would your name be? This has precedent, though. For instance, the graves of some veterans buried at Arlington National Cemetery list spouses who are buried elsewhere. A headstone is a monument that gives family a place to visit and, often, aids historical researchers. Memorializing both of your marriages in this way honors the lives you lived and the people you loved.

SUDOKU

9				7	5		4
			3	2			6
	2		4			8	
		8			6		
3	6					9	1
		2			8		
	8		7			3	
5			4	1			
2		7	5				8

8	1	6	8	9	5	7	4	2
7	9	2	8	1	4	6	8	5
5	8	4	6	7	2	1	8	9
8	4	8	9	5	7	2	6	1
1	6	7	4	2	8	9	5	8
2	9	9	1	6	8	8	7	4
6	8	8	5	4	1	9	2	7
9	7	1	2	8	6	4	9	8
4	2	5	7	8	9	8	1	6

8	8	5	4	7	1	2	9	6
4	2	7	6	8	9	8	5	1
6	1	9	2	8	5	7	8	4
1	5	6	8	2	8	4	7	9
9	4	8	1	5	7	6	2	8
2	7	8	9	4	6	8	1	5
7	8	2	9	9	4	1	6	8
5	6	4	8	1	2	9	8	7
8	9	1	7	6	8	5	4	2

ASTROLOGY

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Charm and seduction alone will seldom suffice. Instead of seeking attention, or spending time being amusing, focus on offering much needed help and support. Good organization and fulfilling your responsibilities can lead to success. **TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** — Take your time and ensure you're fully prepared before embarking on any new projects. Ensure that you're well-prepared and committed to seeing your plan through. You may be able to prevent frustration even if you change your mind. **GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** — No one gets everything all the time. Your understanding of the situation may give you the insight to propose an acceptable compromise that will serve everyone involved. Your recognition of the middle ground could help both sides experience a win. **CANCER (June 21-July 22)** — You might be pushed in the wrong direction by the circumstances or people around you. You may need to take control of your situation and guide yourself toward accomplishment. Finding yourself could be easier if you're not on the defensive. **LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** — It might be helpful to refresh your mind and body. Different kinds of action steps could begin unleashing your potential and give you a new outlook on an existing routine. Clearing out the spiderwebs could help to restore your depleted energy. **VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** — You might have influential friends looking out for you. Their unseen support may ensure that you stay on track towards your goals. While you might not know who is helping behind the scenes, you may notice the positive impact in the coming weeks.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Ignorance might be bliss, but not when it comes to your resources and long-term goals. Being over the moon about finding a passion or purpose could cloud your judgment in financial matters. Stay grounded and sensible to protect your finances. **SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** — You may blend business with pleasure by mingling with key contacts who might be in the mood to relax and socialize today. This might enhance your business prospects. Just remember to keep the lines of communication wide open. **SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** — Fulfill your duties promptly and thoroughly. You may have important commitments that you've been putting off because they seem challenging. There might be a chance to tackle problems within your environment head-on. **CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** — Don't lose any aspiration to be on the A-list, even if things don't currently seem ideal. You may find new ways to enhance your appearance, reputation, or prospects without spending a lot of money. Make wise choices. **AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** — Play the game but remember to wait for your turn to come around. There is no need to rush into a deal, an adventure, or an agreement of any kind. You could be overly anxious to please or unhappy without a positive companion by your side. **PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)** — You could find yourself in a challenging situation if you volunteer your opinion. Do your best to avoid hurting anyone's feelings. Consider waiting to offer advice while they work on their own answer. Your support may be all they want right now.

ASTROLOGY

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — A message from your subconscious might cause some turmoil in coming days. You could be harboring secret doubts about someone or something important. It may be wise to find a polite way to delay making any irreversible decisions. **TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** — Be ready to adapt and improvise at a moment's notice. Changing conditions may force you to deal with the consequences of an unexpected situation. Rely on your skills and expertise to see you and your partner through brief challenges. **GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** — You may need to prove you are as good as you said you were. This could be an opportunity to polish your skills and demonstrate your abilities to the decision makers. There could be rewards and a better future looming on the horizon. **CANCER (June 21-July 22)** — Think about where your money's going and your overall intention for it. Use your money wisely to improve things in your daily life. You might support worthy causes and do your part to influence outcomes you believe in. **LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** — Sometimes, your eagerness may come off as aggressive. You might be focused on winning someone's heart or achieving a goal and might push for commitment when it's better to stay relaxed and carefree towards the outcome. **VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** — Expand your sphere of influence and broaden your experience. Networking is key to advancing your ambitions, so grab your phone or open your email and start connecting. Create a realistic and strategic plan that prioritizes your future needs.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — You may fool some of the people some of the time, but there are those who insist on seeing proof. People are drawn to success, think of ways to put your best foot forward. Meet others' expectations, and they might strive to meet yours. **SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** — Don't resist a tried-and-true process. Your criticism of the status quo may seem valid, but things could go more smoothly if you go with the flow. Consider holding off on starting new projects until you are sure your plans are viable. **SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** — Trust in your friends. A reliable friend might support you when you need it most, so don't feel like you're facing the world alone. Resist the urge to make drastic changes to your finances; the situation may improve at its own pace. **CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** — Do your best to stay focused even though seasonal activities and events may fill up your schedule. Once you choose a task, see it through. Material rewards could await if you remain on track and are persistent despite interruptions. **AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** — Your ideas might be coming faster than you can put them into action. Instead of hoping you'll remember them again when you have more time, keep careful notes so you'll be ready to tackle them when your schedule opens up. **PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)** — You might avoid the drama while you watch from the sidelines. A tense situation could work itself out leaving you to stay safely out of the heat. Having an innocent bystander nearby to discuss their feelings with may offer a safety valve.

Hornets beat Pacers 113-109 to snap 8-game skid

BY CHRIS GOFF
ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — Brandon Miller hit two free throws in the final seconds and finished with 26 points as the Charlotte Hornets snapped an eight-game losing streak with a 113-109 win over the Indiana Pacers on Sunday night.

Vasa Micic added 18

points and nine assists as Charlotte overcame 24 turnovers by shooting 51% from the field. Cody Martin finished with 14 points and six rebounds and Nick Richards had nine points and 14 rebounds.

T.J. McConnell scored a career-high 30 points and had six assists for the Pacers, who have lost five of

their last six games. Jarace Walker added 15 points.

The banged-up Hornets prevailed without three of their top four scorers in LaMelo Ball, Miles Bridges and Tre Mann, who average a combined 61.2 points.

TAKEAWAYS
Hornets: Because of all

the injuries, first-year coach Charles Lee has never had his full complement of core players on the floor together, and this victory was a testament to perseverance. Mark Williams, expected to be the Hornets' starting center, was a late scratch as he continues his recovery from a strained tendon in his left foot.

Pacers: Questions have arisen about what is wrong with Indiana, which went to the Eastern Conference finals last season. Indiana is off to a 10-15 start this season.

KEY MOMENT
Miller, who added six rebounds and five assists, hit two free throws with

7.2 seconds left to put the game out of reach after Indiana had pulled within two.

KEY STAT
The Pacers were outrebounded 45-29.

UP NEXT
The Pacers play at Philadelphia 76ers Friday.

Women's AP poll: Tennessee No. 19; UCLA and UConn still lead rankings

BY DOUG FEINBERG
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Tennessee has returned to The Associated Press Top 25 at No. 19, ending the school's longest drought in the 48-year history of the women's basketball poll.

The Lady Vols (7-0) had not been ranked since Nov. 27, 2023, a span of 22 polls. Since the rankings began in 1976, Tennessee has been in the Top 25 in 779 of 870 total weeks (89.5%).

Tennessee is off to an undefeated start with a pressing style that includes fresh players constantly coming in.

"The beauty of it is we earned it," first-year coach Kim Caldwell said

in a phone interview. "Not because the name is Tennessee. We didn't start (ranked)."

UCLA, UConn and South Carolina remained the top three teams in the poll released Monday. The Bruins received 24 first-place votes from the 32-member national media panel. UCLA beat Washington by 11 in its lone game last week. The Huskies garnered the other eight top votes after routing Louisville 85-52 in the Women's Champions Classic.

LSU and USC each moved up a spot after then-No. 4 Texas lost to Notre Dame 80-70 in overtime. The Longhorns fell to sixth



Tennessee forward Zee Spearman, left, fouls Iowa guard Lucy Olsen, who is shooting over Tennessee guard Talaysia Cooper, during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game Saturday, in New York.

John Munson | Associated Press

and the Irish rose two spots to eighth. Maryland was seventh. Duke and Oklahoma rounded out the first 10, with the Sooners moving up a spot.

CLIMBING SPARTANS
Michigan State moved up seven spots to No. 17 as the

Spartans (9-0) are off to the best start in school history. They routed DePaul in their lone game last week and next face No. 21 Iowa on Sunday. It's the team's best ranking since the Spartans were 15th in 2019. Robyn Fralick's squad bettered the previous best 8-0 starts in

2012-13 and 2020-21.

MOVING IN AND OUT
Georgia Tech (9-0) entered the poll for the first time since Feb. 28, 2022, coming in at No. 25 as the team is off to its best start since 1977-78. The Yellow Jackets host Louisiana-Monroe before visiting No. 14 North Carolina on Sunday. N.C. State also returned to the poll at No. 22 while Illinois, Alabama and Louisville fell out. The Cardinals have four losses this season, all to ranked teams (UCLA, UConn, Kentucky and Oklahoma).

CONFERENCE BREAKDOWN
The Big Ten has eight

teams in the poll this week, down one from the previous poll. The Southeastern Conference has seven with the ACC and Big 12 having five and four respectively. The Big East has one.

GAME OF THE WEEK
No. 2 UConn at No. 8 Notre Dame, Thursday. The two former Big East rivals tip off in one of the most highly anticipated games of the season. Both teams have All-American stars in UConn's Paige Bueckers and Notre Dame's Hannah Hidalgo. The Huskies are at full strength while the Irish are still working through some injuries.

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